

# Common Medications for Dialysis Patients



Along with dialysis, medications make up for some jobs that healthy kidneys do.

These are common types of medications people on dialysis take and how they help:

## Home medications

Type	Purpose
<b>Blood pressure pills</b> <i>Examples:</i> ACE inhibitors, Alpha blockers, Beta blockers, Calcium channel blockers, Diuretics, Vasodilators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lower risks of stroke, heart attack and heart failure by controlling blood pressure</li><li>• Work in many ways: relaxing blood vessels, removing fluid, affecting heart rate, etc. depending on kind</li></ul>
<b>Binders</b> <i>Examples:</i> Renvela/Renagel (Sevelamer), Tums, Fosrenol (Lanthanum), Velphoro Phoslo (Calcium acetate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prevent brittle bones from calcium loss and hardening of blood vessels and heart muscle</li><li>• Keep phosphorus from building up</li></ul>
<b>Vitamins</b> <i>Examples:</i> Nephrocaps, Nephrovite, Renal Caps, Virt-Caps, Rena-Vite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replace vitamins lost in dialysis</li><li>• Only for kidney patients, does not contain vitamins or minerals that can be harmful to dialysis patients</li></ul>

## Medications given at dialysis

Type	Purpose
<b>ESAs (Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents)</b> <i>Examples:</i> Mircera, Retacrit, Epogen, Aranesp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helps your body make red blood cells to prevent anemia (see Anemia handout)</li><li>• Shot given during treatment</li></ul>
<b>Iron</b> <i>Examples:</i> Ferrlecit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works with ESAs to make more red blood cells</li><li>• Given into IV tubing during treatment</li></ul>
<b>Vitamins</b> <i>Examples:</i> Zemplar, Venofer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Form of Vitamin D that your body needs to use calcium for bone and heart health</li><li>• Given into IV tubing during treatment</li></ul>
<b>Blood thinner</b> <i>Examples:</i> Heparin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keeps blood from clotting in the tubing and dialyzer</li><li>• Injected into blood during treatment</li></ul>
<b>Calcimimetics</b> <i>Examples:</i> Sensipar (Cinacalcet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Used when the body makes too much parathyroid hormone; helps control amount of calcium in blood</li></ul>