Captopril or Enalapril (ACE Inhibitors)

Why we give this medicine:

- ACE inhibitors are “afterload reducers”. These medicines make the blood vessels relax and dilate which can lead to lower blood pressure. This means the heart doesn’t have to work as hard because the heart can now pump against more relaxed blood vessels (just as it is easier to blow through a big straw than to blow through a tiny straw that is very thin).
- ACE inhibitors may also help the heart “remodel” (muscle changes in the heart that help it adjust to new blood flow and improve its function/strength).

Side effects of this medicine:

- Hypotension (low blood pressure)
- Kidney damage (rare). Your child’s kidney function can be checked by lab tests.
- Increased potassium in the blood. Your child’s potassium can be checked by lab tests.
- Dry cough
- Angioedema (swelling of tissues – allergic reaction)

When to call your doctor:

- Lower energy level or change in alertness
- Fewer wet diapers, weight gain or swelling (may be a sign of kidney damage or worsening heart failure).
- Any new rash. **Call 911 with any swelling of the face, lips or tongue or trouble breathing (allergic reaction).
- Check with your child’s doctor or nurse if your child becomes sick while taking the medicine, especially with vomiting or diarrhea
- Child may have a dry cough when starting this medicine. This often goes away during treatment. Call if your child coughs often, it bothers your child or is causing faster or harder breathing.
How to use this medicine:

- Give this medicine to your child as directed. Measure dose carefully using only the dropper or syringe given to you by the pharmacist.
- The dose of this medicine may be changed as your child grows.
- **Missed dose:** If you forget to give the medicine at the right time, give it as soon as you can. If it is less than 6 hours before the next dose is due, skip the missed dose and just give the usual amount of medicine at the next scheduled time. **Do not** try to catch up and **do not** give extra medicine.
- **Vomited dose:** If your child vomits within 10 minutes of giving the medicine repeat the dose **once.** If your child vomits again, do not repeat the dose and just give the normal amount of medicine at the next scheduled time.
- Do not mix this medicine in food or liquids. If your child does not finish all of it, you will not know how much medicine your child has taken.
- Refill your child’s ACE inhibitor before the medicine runs out.
- This medicine may result in high potassium levels in the blood. Check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before giving potassium chloride supplement (KCL) or Spironolactone to your child.

**Remember to keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children and never share medicines with others**