

**PRIMA-ACS Patient Information Sheet**

### Why are heart medications so important?

You have been diagnosed with an acute coronary syndrome. This means that you have had a heart attack or unstable angina. In order to minimize your risk of having another acute coronary syndrome, stroke, or dying, you will require a combination of risk reducing medications.

The likelihood of having another heart attack over the next 5 years is around 20%. Each of the medications prescribed will help to reduce your risk.

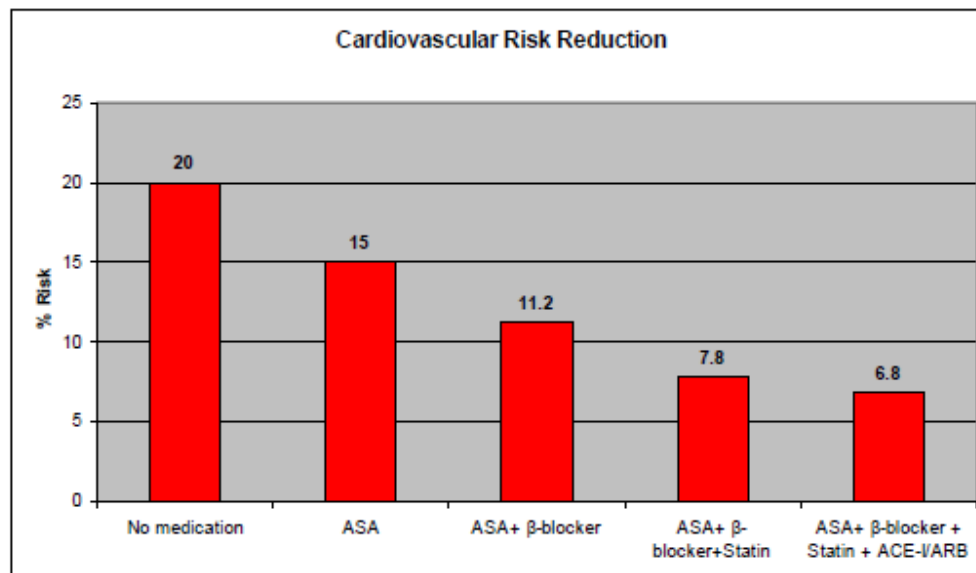
ASA (Aspirin®) can reduce your risk of another heart attack or death by 25%.

Beta-blockers (β-blocker) can reduce your risk of another heart attack or death by 25%. You are on \_\_\_\_\_.

Statins (cholesterol lowering drugs) can reduce your risk of another heart attack or death by 30%. You are on \_\_\_\_\_.

ACE Inhibitors or ARBs can reduce your risk of another heart attack or death by 25%. You are on \_\_\_\_\_.

We are unclear of the total benefit of taking all 4 of these medications but some studies suggest an overall 75% risk reduction. It is not always necessary or feasible for people to be on all four of these medications. Please consult your doctor if you have questions.



Appendix material for Neville HL, Mann K, Killen J, Callaghan M. Pharmacist intervention to improve medication adherence in patients with acute coronary syndrome: the PRIMA-ACS study. *Can J Hosp Pharm.* 2021;74(4):350-60.