

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using ATACAND?

ATACAND contains the active ingredient candesartan cilexetil. ATACAND is used to treat high blood pressure also called hypertension, or heart failure. For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using ATACAND?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use ATACAND?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to ATACAND or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI, have severe liver disease and/or conditions associated with impaired bile flow (cholestasis), or are taking blood pressure medicine containing aliskiren and you have diabetes mellitus or kidney problems.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use ATACAND?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with ATACAND and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I use ATACAND?

- The usual dose is 8 mg or 16 mg once daily and may be increased to 32 mg once daily. Your doctor will tell you the dose of ATACAND you should take.
- Take ATACAND once a day, at the same time each day.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use ATACAND?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using ATACAND?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are taking ATACAND.• If you are taking ATACAND for high blood pressure, drink plenty of water during exercise and hot weather. If you are taking ATACAND for heart failure, talk to your doctor about your fluid intake.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stop using ATACAND suddenly unless you have discussed it with your doctor.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how ATACAND affects you.• You may feel dizzy or weary when you are taking ATACAND.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep it in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using ATACAND?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Side effects may include headache, dizziness, weariness, chest or throat infection, flu-like symptoms, feeling sick (nausea, vomiting), back pain. Side effects that require urgent medical attention include: Swelling of the face, lips, tongue, throat, hands, feet or ankles; harsh sounds when breathing; rash, itching or hives; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; easy bruising or bleeding more easily than normal; extreme fatigue, tiredness, weakness; signs of frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers; passing little or no urine; awareness of heartbeat.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

ATACAND®

Active ingredient: *candesartan cilexetil*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using ATACAND. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using ATACAND.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using ATACAND?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use ATACAND?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use ATACAND?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using ATACAND?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using ATACAND?

ATACAND contains the active ingredient **candesartan cilexetil**. ATACAND is a type of medicine called an angiotensin II receptor antagonist (or blocker).

ATACAND is used to treat high blood pressure (also called hypertension), and to treat heart failure.

ATACAND lowers blood pressure by dilating (expanding) small blood vessels from the heart, letting the blood be pumped around the body more easily. It may be used in combination with other medicines to treat your condition.

2. What should I know before I use ATACAND?

Warnings

Do not use ATACAND if:

- you are allergic to candesartan cilexetil, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- have severe liver disease and/or conditions associated with impaired bile flow (cholestasis).
- are taking blood pressure medicines containing aliskiren and you have diabetes mellitus (type I or II) or kidney problems.

Check with your doctor if you:

- have kidney, liver or heart problems.
- have experienced recent excessive vomiting or diarrhoea.
- have a condition where your adrenal glands produce too much aldosterone, called primary hyperaldosteronism.
- have any planned surgeries that may need a general anaesthetic (including dental surgery)

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Do not use ATACAND if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.

Discuss with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. ATACAND may affect your baby if you take it during pregnancy.

Discuss with your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed. It is not known if ATACAND passes into breast milk. Because of its potential to effect the baby, it is not recommended to breastfeed while taking ATACAND.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and ATACAND may interfere with each other. These include:

- Any medicines containing potassium, including salt substitutes
- Diuretics (fluid tablets)
- Lithium, a medicine used to treat psychiatric conditions such as bipolar disorder or schizoaffective disorder
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), medicines used to relieve pain, swelling and other symptoms of inflammation, including arthritis, such as aspirin, etoricoxib, and celecoxib
- Medicines used to treat blood pressure, including aliskiren-containing medicines, and angiotensin-converting-enzyme (ACE) inhibitors such as enalapril, lisinopril, ramipril, and captopril.
- Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists (MRAs), such as spironolactone and eplerenone, medicines used to treat heart failure.
- Heparin, a medicine used to stop blood from clotting
- Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, an antibiotic

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect ATACAND.

4. How do I use ATACAND?

How much to take

- The usual dose is one 8 mg tablet or one 16 mg tablet taken daily. Sometimes an increase in dose to 32 mg once daily is needed. Your doctor will tell you the dose of ATACAND you should take.
- Follow the instructions provided and use ATACAND until your doctor tells you to stop.

When to take ATACAND

- ATACAND should be taken once a day, at the same time each day. Keeping a regular time for taking ATACAND will help to remind you to take it.
- It does not matter whether you take ATACAND with food or on an empty stomach.

If you forget to use ATACAND

ATACAND should be used regularly at the same time each day. If you miss your dose at the usual time, take it as soon as you remember, as long as it is at least 12 hours before your next dose is due. Then go back to taking it as you normally would.

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.

If you use too much ATACAND

If you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much ATACAND, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (by calling 13 11 26), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

5. What should I know while using ATACAND?

Things you should do

Be sure to keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked. Your doctor will check your progress and may want to take some tests (e.g. blood tests, blood pressure) from time to time. These tests may help to prevent side effects.

Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using ATACAND.

Things you should not do

- Do not stop using this medicine suddenly unless you have discussed it with your doctor.

Things to be careful of

- Move slowly when getting out of bed or standing up if you feel faint, dizzy or light-headed.
- Make sure you drink enough water while you are taking ATACAND, especially during exercise and hot weather, or if you sweat a lot. However, if you are taking ATACAND for heart failure, restricted fluid intake may be recommended. Speak with your doctor about how much water you should drink.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how ATACAND affects you.

ATACAND may cause dizziness or weariness in some people during treatment.

Looking after your medicine

Store ATACAND below 30°C. For example, do not store it:

Follow the instructions in the carton on how to take care of your medicine properly.

Store it in a cool dry place away from moisture, heat or sunlight; for example, do not store it:

- in the bathroom or near a sink, or
- in the car or on window sills.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
General disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headache• Dizziness• Weariness	Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.
Infection related <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chest or throat infection• Flu-like symptoms	
Stomach (gastrointestinal) related <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeling sick (nausea, vomiting)	
Joint or muscle related <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back pain	

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p>Joint or muscle related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Aching muscles, tenderness or weakness in the muscle <p>Allergy related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Swelling of the face, lips, tongue throat, hands, feet or anklesRash, itching or hives <p>Lung related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Harsh sounds when breathing <p>Liver related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes <p>Blood related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Easy bruising or bleeding more easily than normalSigns of frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcersExtreme fatigue, tiredness, weaknessNausea, diarrhoea, muscle weakness and awareness of heartbeat <p>Kidney related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Passing little or no urine, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, breathlessness, loss of appetite and weakness (especially in patients with existing kidney problems or heart failure)	<p>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</p>

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What ATACAND contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	candesartan cilexetil
Other ingredients	Carmellose calcium

(inactive ingredients)	Hyprolose Iron oxide red (E 172) (8 mg, 16 mg and 32 mg tablets only) Lactose monohydrate Magnesium stearate (E 572) Maize starch Macrogol 8000
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Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What ATACAND looks like

ATACAND 4 mg tablets are round white tablets, 7 mm in diameter. They are scored and marked A/CF on one side with 004 on the other.

ATACAND 8 mg tablets are round light pink tablets, 7 mm in diameter. They are scored and marked A/CG on one side with 008 on the other.

ATACAND 16 mg tablets are round pink tablets, 7 mm in diameter. They are scored and marked A/CH on one side with 016 on the other.

ATACAND 32 mg tablets are round pink biconvex tablets. They are scored and marked A/CL on one side with 032 on the other.

All strengths are available in blister packs of 30 tablets.

Australian Registration Numbers:

ATACAND 4 mg – AUST R 64106

ATACAND 8 mg – AUST R 64107

ATACAND 16 mg – AUST R 64108

ATACAND 32 mg – AUST R 117341

Who distributes ATACAND

Link Medical Products Pty Ltd

5 Apollo Street

Warriewood, NSW, 2102

Australia

1800 181 060

linkhealthcare.com.au

This leaflet was prepared in October 2025.