

What it does:

- Furosemide is a water pill (diuretic). It helps lower blood pressure and removes extra fluid from your body — but only if your kidneys still make some urine.

How it works:

- It tells your kidneys to make more urine. This helps remove extra fluid from your body and keeps your weight from going up too much between dialysis sessions.
- If you are on peritoneal dialysis (PD), furosemide helps control your fluid and blood pressure between exchanges. It may also let you use lower-strength dialysis bags (less sugary), which is better for your belly lining over time.

How to take it:

- If you take one dose a day, take it in the morning after breakfast.
- If you take more than one dose a day, take your last dose no later than 4:00 pm. This helps you avoid needing to go to the bathroom at night.
- If you also take metolazone: take the metolazone 30 minutes before you take furosemide.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed one and go back to your normal schedule. Do not take two doses at once.

Possible side effects:

- You may need to go to the bathroom more often than usual. This is normal — it is how the medicine works.
- You may feel dizzy, weak, or thirsty. Your skin may also be more sensitive to sunlight. Try to stay out of the sun or use sunscreen with at least SPF 15.

Call your doctor if you have any of these:

- Skin rash
- Chest pain
- Bad muscle cramps
- Feeling very thirsty or tired
- Loss of appetite
- Irregular heartbeat (your heart feels like it is skipping or racing)
- Ringing in your ears or trouble hearing
- Trouble controlling your blood sugar