

# Clonidine (Kapvay®, Catapres®)

## ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Client's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Medication Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

**What does this medication help to treat?**

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD),  
Tourette's syndrome and tic disorders

**Symptoms of these conditions are:**

- Difficulty paying attention to details, makes careless mistakes in schoolwork
- Trouble keeping attention
- Trouble listening
- Difficulty with following instructions
- Trouble with organizing activities
- Difficulty in keeping attention
- Easily distracted
- Often forgetful in daily activities

- Often fidgets or squirms in seat
- Talks excessively
- Trouble enjoying activities quietly
- Often blurts out answers before questions have been finished or interrupts others
- Has trouble waiting for someone's turn

Clonidine is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your health care professional for more information

**Other information**

- May cause slow heart rate, decreased blood pressure, dizziness resulting from decreased blood pressure when standing up from a sitting or lying position. These effects may be seen more during the first month of therapy. Tell your prescriber if there is a family history of heart problems.
- Do not abruptly discontinue this medication. Abrupt discontinuation can result in nervousness, anxiety, and high blood pressure.

### Side Effects and Management

**Common (greater than 10 in 100 clients on this medication)**

Lightheadedness, Drowsiness, Heart palpitations	Talk to your prescriber about taking your dose at bedtime. Avoid alcohol and use caution when driving.
Dizziness	Get up slowly from a sitting or lying position. Dangle feet off the side of the bed before getting up.
Constipation	Drink more liquids, exercising, or adding fiber may help. May ask prescriber about stool softener or laxative.
Dry mouth	Good mouth care may help. Older children may suck hard, sugar-free candy.
Headache	Ask prescriber about taking OTC pain medication if needed.

**Uncommon (~1 to 10 in 100 clients on this medication)**

Abdominal pain	Can take medications with food.
Blurred vision	May use natural tears eye drops to keep eyes lubricated.
Anxiety	Talk to prescriber.
Urinary incontinence	Talk to prescriber.
Vivid dreams or nightmares	Talk to prescriber.

**Rare (less than 1 in 100 clients on this medication)**

Call your prescriber immediately if you experience any of these:

- If there is an overdose, call local poison center or ER 1800-222-1222
- Signs of a bad reaction to the medication: wheezing; chest tightness; fever; itching; bad cough; blue skin color; seizures; or swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat
- Very bad dizziness or passing out
- Very hard stools
- Any rash
- Pain in the extremities

\*\*References: Clinical Pharmacology, LexiComp accessed 4/26/12\*\*