

Cardiovascular Drug Classes

Nursing

Six classes, the lever each one pulls, and the observation that tracks it.

Match the mechanism to the monitoring and the class becomes memorable.

Class	Lever	Check
ACE inhibitors	Less angiotensin II	BP, potassium, renal function
Beta-blockers	Slower, weaker beats	Pulse and BP before dose
Calcium channel blockers	Vasodilation, rate	BP, ankle oedema, pulse
Loop diuretics	Sodium and water loss	Weight, output, potassium
Nitrates	Venodilation	BP, headache, tolerance
Statins	Less cholesterol made	Muscle pain, liver tests

Educational reference. Hold parameters and target values are prescriber-set and patient-specific; escalate rather than omit on your