**Unit 23—Medications Used for Cardiovascular System Disorders**

Objectives

Upon completing this unit, you should be able to:

* Define the terms listed in the vocabulary.
* State the function of the cardiovascular system.
* List the warning signs of a heart attack.
* List the established risk factors for heart disease.
* Explain why age is directly related to the development of heart disease.
* Explain why age complicates the treatment regimen for older adults.
* Describe two causes of congenital heart disease.
* Complete the critical thinking questions and activities presented in this unit.
* Describe three ways that drugs may affect heart action.
* Explain the action of digitalis products.
* State the usual initial or digitalizing dose, the usual maintenance dose, and adverse reaction of selected digitalis products.
* State the actions, uses, contraindications, warnings, adverse reactions, dosage and route, im- plications for patient care, patient teaching, and special considerations for digitalis prepara- tions, antihypertensive agents, anticoagulants, antiplatelet drugs, hematinic agents, agents used in treating megaloblastic anemia, and antihyperlipidemic agents.
* Describe hemostatic agents and their use.
* Complete the Spot Check on selected drugs that are used to treat cardiovascular system disor- ders.
* Answer the review questions correctly.