

## PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

### ASPIRIN

#### ABOUT your medicine

Aspirin is used for treating pain, fever, arthritis and other types of inflammation. It may also be used to reduce the risk of heart attack.

Before using the medicine, inform your doctor if any of the following applies to you :

- Allergy to aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) e.g. ibuprofen, naproxen, mefenamic acid, diclofenac.
- Pregnancy and/or breast-feeding (taking aspirin may complicate labour/delivery).
- Taking other medications, for instance NSAIDs and “blood thinners” (e.g. warfarin)
- Other medical problems:
  - Symptoms of appendicitis
  - Blood clotting or platelet function disorders
  - Gastrointestinal problems such as gastric ulcer

#### HOW should I take the medicine?

Your doctor will determine the amount of medicine you should take based on the severity of your condition. Take this medicine in the dose prescribed by your doctor.

Tablets (regular, chewable):

- Take with food, milk or a glass of water.
- Chewable tablets may be chewed or swallowed whole, after meals.
- The solution may be used as a gargle. Please follow the instructions given.

Tablets (delayed release, enteric coated):

- Swallow tablet whole. Do not crush.
- Take with a glass of water, after meals.

Tablets (effervescent):

- Dissolve tablet in one glass of cool boiled water, and drink after meals.

What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not double your dose or take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose. If you have missed several doses, please call your physician to check what you should do.

What are the **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

Call your doctor right away if you have any of these side-effects:

- Severe stomach pain
- Bloody vomit or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- Blood in the stools or urine
- Skin rash or hives with intense itching
- Swelling of the face or eyelids
- Wheezing or trouble with breathing
- Severe dizziness or drowsiness
- Ringing in the ears

Keep all medication out of reach of children

Talk with your doctor if you have problems with these less serious side-effects:

- Stomach upset
- Heartburn

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Do not take aspirin for 5 to 7 days prior to any kind of surgery, unless otherwise directed by your doctor.

If you are taking aspirin to prevent blood clots, check with your doctor before using other pain medications.

Keep regular visits to your doctor to check your progress, if long-term or high dose therapy is prescribed. Avoid alcoholic beverages as these may cause gastric irritation.

Attention to Diabetics : Aspirin may cause false positive urine sugar test.

Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are already taking some other medicines, herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements.

You must tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, or if you develop an allergy while taking this medicine. The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following: swollen face/eyes/lips, difficulty in breathing, or widespread itchy skin rashes.

Inform your doctor if you are breast-feeding, pregnant, or likely to become pregnant during the course of this treatment

How should **I STORE** the medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

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Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

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