



Patient & Family Guide

2023

Aspirin[®]



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Aspirin®

Generic name: ASA (acetylsalicylic acid)

This medication has many brand names (like Bayer® Aspirin®).

Why do I need this medication?

Aspirin® treats pain, fever, arthritis, and other types of inflammation (swelling). It may also be used to **lower the risk of heart attack or stroke** by making your blood less likely to clot.

My medication is called: _____

Do not take this medication if:

- › you have had a true allergic reaction to Aspirin® (like a skin rash, hives with really bad itching, or swelling in your face or eyelids) or to other pain and arthritis medication. **A true allergic reaction is rare.** It means your immune system is activated by the medication.
- › you have an active stomach (belly) ulcer or any kind of bleeding problem.

Do not give Aspirin® to children or teens with a fever, chickenpox, or symptoms of a flu or viral infection. It can cause a serious disease called Reye's syndrome.

Tablets (enteric coated):

- Take it with a large glass of water.
- Swallow the tablet whole. **Do not crush or chew it.**
- Store your medication in a tightly closed container at room temperature (15 to 30 °C or 59 to 86 °F) away from heat, moisture, and direct light. **Do not store it in the bathroom.**

Tablets (regular and chewable):

- Take the tablet with food, milk, or a glass of water.
- Chewable tablets may be chewed or swallowed whole.
- Store this medication in a tightly closed container at room temperature (15 to 30 °C or 59 to 86 °F) away from heat, moisture, and direct light. **Do not store it in the bathroom.**

How to take and store this medication

- Keep all medication out of the reach of children and pets.

If you miss a dose:

- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember.
- Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose.
- **Do not take 2 doses at the same time.**

Medications and foods to avoid

- Ask your primary health care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner) or your pharmacist before taking any other medication, including over-the-counter products while taking Aspirin®.
- **Do not take over-the-counter medications that have ASA or salicylate acid.** Taking these with Aspirin® could cause an overdose.
- **Do not take ibuprofen and naproxen.** Taking them with Aspirin® can raise your risk of bleeding.
- Drinking alcohol while taking Aspirin® can give you an upset stomach. Limit how much alcohol you drink while taking Aspirin®.
- Make sure your primary health care provider knows if you are taking blood thinners (like warfarin) or DOACs (direct oral anticoagulants, like apixaban).

Warnings:

- Talk to your primary health care provider before taking Aspirin® if you:
 - › Are pregnant
 - › Are breastfeeding or chestfeeding
 - › Have asthma
 - › Have kidney problems
 - › Have a history of ulcers
- Aspirin® may affect the results of some urine sugar tests. Tell your health care provider you are taking Aspirin® before being tested.

Call your primary health care provider or go to the Emergency Department right away if you have:

- › Severe (very bad) stomach pain
- › Blood in your vomit (throw up) or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- › Blood in your bowel movements (poop) or urine
- › Skin rash or hives with really bad itching
- › Swelling in your face or eyelids
- › Wheezing or trouble breathing
- › Severe dizziness
- › Severe drowsiness (tiredness)
- › Ringing in your ears

If you have any of these less serious side effects, tell your primary health care provider:

- › Upset stomach
- › Heartburn

If you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medication, tell your primary health care provider or your pharmacist.

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

Notes:

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.