



Patient & Family Guide

2024

Digoxin



www.nshealth.ca

Digoxin

Why do I need this medication?

- Digoxin is used to treat heart failure and some types of irregular heartbeats (arrhythmias).

Do not take this medication if you have ever had an allergic reaction to digoxin or similar medications.

Example: Toloxin®

My medication is called: _____

How do I store this medication?

- Store your medication in a tightly closed container at room temperature away from heat, moisture, and direct light.
- **Do not** store it in the bathroom.
- Keep all medication out of the reach of children and pets.

How do I take this medication?

- Take this medication exactly as your health care provider told you, even if you feel fine.
- You can take this medication with or without food.
- Take it at the same time(s) each day.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember **unless it has been more than 12 hours since your last dose.**
- If it has been more than 12 hours, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your usual time.
- **Do not** take 2 doses at the same time.
- If you miss your dose for 2 days or more, tell your health care provider.

Medications and foods to avoid

- Talk with your health care provider or pharmacist before taking any other medications, including over-the-counter products or natural health products.
- **Do not** take antacids (like Maalox[®] or Mylanta[®]) or kaolin-pectin (Kaopectate[®]).

- Talk with your health care provider before taking:
 - › Amiodarone (Cordarone®)
 - › Amphetamine
 - › Colestid®
 - › Diet pills
 - › Diuretics (water pills) (like Lasix®, hydrochlorothiazide)
 - › Medication for diarrhea, asthma, allergies, or colds
 - › Other heart medications
 - › Other medications that lower the amount of potassium in your blood
 - › Potassium pills
 - › Propafenone (Rythmol®)
 - › Questran®
 - › Quinidine
 - › Verapamil
- Tell your health care provider if you are on a high-fibre eating plan. Eating foods high in fiber can change how digoxin is absorbed in the body.

Warnings

- If you have kidney disease, check with your health care provider before taking digoxin.
- Check with your health care provider or pharmacist before stopping digoxin. **Do not stop taking this medication suddenly.**
- **Do not** change brands of this medication before checking with your health care provider or pharmacist.
- Tell your health care provider or dentist about all of the medications you are taking before having any surgery.

What are your questions?

Please ask a member of your health care team. We are here to help you.

**Call 911 or go to the nearest
Emergency Department right away if
you:**

- › Have an irregular heartbeat
- › Faint
- › Have trouble breathing
- › Have a skin rash
- › Have hives
- › Have itchy skin
- › Have nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- › Are feeling less hungry than usual
- › Vomit (throw up)
- › Have diarrhea (loose, watery poop)
- › Feel more weak, tired, or drowsy than usual
- › Have blurred or coloured vision (like yellow, green, or white halos around objects)

If you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medication, tell your primary health care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner) or pharmacist.

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>

Prepared by: Pharmacy Department
Designed by: Nova Scotia Health Library Services

QV85-0252 © March 2024 Nova Scotia Health Authority
To be reviewed March 2027 or sooner, if needed.