



Patient & Family Guide

2023

Clopidogrel



www.nshealth.ca

Clopidogrel

Why do I need this medication?

- This medication helps to prevent blood clots.
- Preventing blood clots helps to prevent heart attacks and strokes.
- You may need it if you have a stent. A stent is a tiny tube used to keep a blood vessel open if there is a blockage.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have:

- › Bleeding problems (like a bleeding ulcer)
- › Severe (very bad) liver disease
- › Recently had surgery
- › Recently experienced trauma or an injury

How to take this medication

- Take this medication exactly as your health care provider tells you to.
- Take it with food to avoid an upset stomach.
- If you have had a stent put in during a balloon procedure, you may need to take clopidogrel for 1 to 12 months. This will depend on the type of stent.

How to store this medication

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

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 pharmacist before taking any other medication, including over-the-counter products.
- Check with your primary health care provider before taking ASA (Aspirin®) or anti-inflammatory medication (like ibuprofen [Advil®, Motrin®] or repaglinide).
- **If you have had a stent put in**, you may keep taking one low dose Aspirin® a day while you are taking clopidogrel.

Warnings

- Talk to your primary health care provider before taking this medication if you:
 - › Are pregnant
 - › Are breastfeeding or chestfeeding
- You may need to stop taking clopidogrel 7 days (1 week) before having surgery or dental work. Talk to your primary health care provider or dentist.

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

- › Severe (very bad) stomach pain
- › Severe bruises
- › Bleeding
- › Blood in your bowel movements (poop) or urine (pee)
- › Fever (temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F)
- › Chills
- › Yellowing of your skin or eyes (jaundice)
- › Sore throat
- › Skin rash (rare)

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

- › Gas
- › Bloating
- › Diarrhea (loose, watery poop)
- › Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- › Mild stomach pain
- › Mild skin rash

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

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

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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