



Patient & Family Guide  
2017

# Aspirin



[www.nshealth.ca](http://www.nshealth.ca)

# Aspirin

**Brand name:** Bayer® Aspirin

There are many other brands of this medicine available.

My medicine is called: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why do I need this medicine?

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

## Do not take this medicine if:

- You have had a true allergic reaction to aspirin, or to pain and arthritis medicine. A true allergic reaction is rare and means your immune system is activated by the medicine.
- You have an active stomach ulcer or any kind of bleeding problem.

**Aspirin should not be given to children or teenagers with a fever, chickenpox, or symptoms of a flu or viral infection because it can cause a serious disease called Reye's syndrome.**

## **How to take and store this medicine**

Keep all medicine out of the reach of children and pets.

### **Tablets (enteric coated)**

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

### **Tablets (regular, chewable)**

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

## If you miss a dose

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

## Medicines and foods to avoid

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicine, including over-the-counter products.

- Do not drink alcohol while taking aspirin as the combination can cause stomach upset.
- Make sure your doctor knows if you are taking blood thinners (such as Coumadin<sup>®</sup> [warfarin], probenecid, corticosteroids (such as cortisone, prednisone), or methotrexate.
- Make sure your doctor knows if you are taking ticlopidine (Ticlid<sup>®</sup>), dipyridamole (Persantine<sup>®</sup>), sulfipyrazone (Anturane), clopidogrel (Plavix<sup>®</sup>), vitamin E, or any anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs).



**What are your questions?**

**Please ask. We are here to help you.**

## Warnings

- Check with your doctor before taking aspirin if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if you have asthma, kidney problems, or a history of ulcers.
- Aspirin may cause incorrect results with some urine sugar tests.

### **Call your doctor right away or go to the Emergency Department if you have:**

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



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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

QV85-0071 Updated May 2017

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