

# Treatment of High Potassium with Kayexalate<sup>®</sup> Powder in Hemodialysis Patients

# Treatment of High Potassium with Kayexalate Powder® in Hemodialysis Patients

## What is Kayexalate®?

Kayexalate® (sodium polystyrene sulfonate) is a drug that treats high potassium levels in the body. High potassium levels may lead to an irregular heart beat or cause problems with muscles and nerves if left untreated.

## Why do hemodialysis patients need this medicine?

- People with kidney disease have a greater chance of having high potassium levels. This is more likely to happen if they do not follow a low potassium diet and have regular dialysis treatments.
- Dialysis is the best way to prevent high potassium levels. It is important to go to your treatments, even if you do not feel well.
- If you cannot go to hemodialysis, you MAY need this medicine to control your potassium level. If you cannot go for hemodialysis, call the hemodialysis unit for details about what to do.

## How do I take Kayexalate®?

- **Do not take this medicine unless the hemodialysis staff tells you to, even if you miss a dialysis treatment.**
- Take at least 3 hours before or 3 hours after any other oral (taken by mouth) medicines.
- Take this medicine for as long as the hemodialysis staff tells you to.
- The staff from the hemodialysis unit will tell you how much to take. Only use one of the three containers your pharmacy gives you. Each container contains 30 grams of Kayexalate®. Mix one container with ½ cup (125 ml) of water (not juice) and drink it.

## Are there any side effects?

Like all medicines, this drug may cause side effects such as:

- › Upset stomach
- › Nausea
- › Vomiting (throwing up)
- › Constipation or diarrhea

Tell your health care provider if these symptoms are severe or do not go away.

# How should I store this medicine?

- Do not store this medicine in the bathroom.
- Store this medicine at room temperature, away from direct light, moisture and heat.
- Keep the lid on the container.
- Store it out of children's reach.

If you have any questions about this medicine, please contact your dialysis unit:

Dialysis unit	Phone number

**What are your questions?  
Please ask. We are here to help you.**

### Looking for more health information?

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: <http://library.nshealth.ca/PatientGuides>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

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

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

*Nova Scotia Health Authority promotes a smoke-free, vape-free, and scent-free environment.*

*Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!*

**Nova Scotia Health Authority**

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

*Prepared by: Renal Program ©*

*Designed by: NSHA Library Services*

The information in this brochure is for informational and educational purposes only.

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.

WQ85-1445 Updated December 2017

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