



Patient & Family Guide
2017

Clopidogrel



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Clopidogrel

Why do I need this medicine?

This medicine helps to prevent strokes by keeping blood clots from forming. It also may be used to help keep your coronary (heart) blood vessels open and prevent clots if you have had a balloon procedure with a stent put in.

Brand name: Plavix®

Do not take this medicine if:

- › You have any bleeding problems such as a bleeding ulcer
- › You have severe liver disease

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

How to take this medicine

- Take this medicine exactly as your doctor tells you to.
- Take clopidogrel with food to avoid an upset stomach.
- If you have had a stent put in during your balloon procedure, you may need to take clopidogrel for 1 to 12 months, depending on the type of stent used.

How to store this medicine

- Keep all medicine out of the reach of children and pets.
- Store your 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.
- Check with your doctor before taking aspirin or anti-inflammatory medicine such as ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin®).
- If you have had a stent put in, you may keep taking one aspirin a day while you are taking clopidogrel.

Warnings

- Check with your doctor before taking this medicine if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- You may need to stop taking clopidogrel 7 days before any type of surgery or dental work. Check with your doctor or dentist first.

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

- › Severe stomach pain
- › Bruises
- › Bleeding
- › Blood in your urine
- › Fever
- › Chills
- › Bloody or black bowel movements
- › Yellowing of your skin or eyes
- › Sore throat
- › Skin rash (rare)

If you have any of these less serious side effects, tell your doctor or pharmacist:

- › Gas or bloating
- › Diarrhea
- › 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 medicine, tell your doctor.

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>

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Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!

Nova Scotia Health Authority

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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.
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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.