

Velphoro[®] (Sucroferric Oxyhydroxide) and Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

What is Velphoro[®]?

- Velphoro[®] is a medication used to treat high levels of phosphorous in the blood. Phosphorous is a mineral that builds strong bones and teeth.
- Velphoro[®] binds (attaches) to phosphorous from the foods you eat and stops your body from taking it in. Phosphorous leaves your body when waste products leave your body (when you pee or poop).
- Velphoro[®] is the brand name for sucroferric oxyhydroxide (su-cro-FER-ric oxy-hy-DROX-ide).

Why does someone with chronic kidney disease (CKD) need to take this medication?

- Your kidneys play a role in removing excess (extra) phosphorous from the body. People with CKD are less able to remove phosphorous. This means that their phosphorous levels may rise. When there is too much phosphorous in your blood, your bones can lose calcium and become weak.
- Dialysis can help remove some of the extra phosphorous, but it is also important to know how much phosphorous is in the food you eat. Work with a dietitian to choose foods that are low in phosphorous.
- You may need to take Velphoro[®] to stop your body from taking in extra phosphorus from the food you eat.

How do I take Velphoro[®]?

- Velphoro[®] is a chewable tablet. Tablets should be chewed, **do not swallow the tablets whole.**
- Velphoro[®] is usually taken with each meal. When you first start taking Velphoro, you may be told to take one tablet with your largest meal. Your dose (amount of medication you take) will be increased over time.

- If you miss a dose of Velphoro[®], skip it. Take your next dose at the scheduled time. **Do not take 2 doses at the same time.**

What are the possible side effects?

- › Diarrhea (loose, watery poop) — This usually gets better over time.
- › Dark-coloured poop
- › Nausea (upset stomach)
- › Stomachache

Tell your kidney health care provider if these symptoms get very bad or do not go away after 2 to 3 weeks.

How do I store Velphoro[®]?

- Store Velphoro[®] at room temperature (15 to 30° C) in a dry place. **Do not keep Velphoro[®] in damp areas like the bathroom.**
- Keep Velphoro[®] out of reach of children and pets.

Notes:

Looking for more health information?

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

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>

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Prepared by: Renal Program

Designed by: Nova Scotia Health Library Services

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