

# EMTRICITABINE

Other names: Emtriva®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

## Why you are taking this medicine

- Emtricitabine is used in the treatment and prevention of the HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) /AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) infection.
- Emtricitabine belongs to the nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI or 'nuke') family. It helps to block a process in your body (HIV reverse transcriptase) that is needed for HIV to multiply.
- Emtricitabine is used in combination with other HIV medication that helps to lower viral load and increase CD4 cell count, which are important markers for the immune system.

## When to take this medicine

- Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose in adults is ONE (200mg) capsule ONCE a day with or without food. However, this dose may vary depending on your kidney function.

## If you miss a dose

Take as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

## Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- trouble breathing
- stomach pain with nausea and vomiting
- dizziness or light-headedness
- fast or irregular heartbeat
- yellow skin or eyes (jaundice)
- dark urine
- bowel movements (stools) turn light in colour

Tell your doctor or pharmacists if you have these side effects:

- headache
- diarrhoea
- nausea and vomiting
- rash

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any other side effect(s) from your medicine that are not mentioned here.

### **Other Medication**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Emtricitabine (Emtriva) should not be administered along with:

- Truvada (tenofovir plus emtricitabine combination tablet)
- Atripla (tenofovir plus emtricitabine plus efavirenz combination tablet)
- Medicines that contain lamivudine, including Combivir, Zeffix, 3TC, Kivexa or Trizivir.

### **Storage**

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.**