FLUCLOXACILLIN

Other names: Flucloxin ®

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 are you taking this medication

Flucloxacillin is a penicillin type antibiotic that kills bacteria. It is effective against many (but not all) infections. This medicine may be used for skin, bone, joint, pneumonia (chest), cellulitis (soft tissue) and burn infections, provided that the bacteria causing the infection are not resistant to it.

When to take this medication

Flucloxacillin may be effective against some infections when given orally; however when the infection is serious, higher levels of drug are required and the best way to do this is to give the drug directly into the bloodstream (by injection).
Flucloxacillin may already be prepared by the Hospital Pharmacy or will be prepared by a District Nurse. The injection is contained in a bag and is designed to drip slowly into your catheter (this is called an infusion) or a syringe. This should be administered exactly as you have been instructed at the hospital or clinic. The infusion should be given over at least 30 minutes. The syringe should be given over at least five minutes. Your dose (how much and how often) depends on how bad your infection is and on your kidney and liver function.

Side effects

Some people are allergic to flucloxacillin: this would have showed up in the hospital or clinic.
Milder side effects include:
-nausea -diarrhoea
-pain and inflammation during the infusion at the injection site
Contact your backup service or see your doctor **immediately** if the following occur:
-skin rash, itching or fever -unusual bleeding or bruising
Flucloxacillin can cause severe or long lasting diarrhoea which may start up to a month after you finish taking flucloxacillin. If you get troublesome diarrhoea, do not take any anti-diarrhoea medicine. Contact your backup service or your doctor straight away and report that you have had flucloxacillin recently: there is a specific treatment for this diarrhoea.

Other medication

Flucloxacillin may increase the effect of **warfarin** on your blood clotting making you more prone to bleeding.

Storage

Remember to keep your medication out of reach of children

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