

# MORPHINE

**Other names:** RA-Morph®, Sevredol®, Arrow Morphine LA®, m-Eslon®



**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?

Morphine is a substance which acts in the brain, spinal cord and other tissues to produce an analgesic effect (for pain relief). It belongs to group called opioids.

Morphine is a strong pain reliever and has been used to treat different types of pain, such as:

- back pain
- cancer pain
- heart attack pain
- surgical pain

## When to take this medicine

Intermediate or rapid-acting morphine (e.g. Sevredol, RA-Morph) is often used for acute or “break-through” pain relief. These preparations relieve pain within half an hour and can last up to four hours. The dose and frequency is adjusted to your individual need.

Long-acting morphine (e.g. m-Eslon, Arrow Morphine LA) is released slowly in the body over twelve hours. These preparations are prescribed twice a day (e.g. 8am and 8pm). Do not crush or chew this medicine, but swallow tablets and capsules whole. m-Eslon capsules may be opened and the pellets sprinkled onto a small amount of apple sauce or yoghurt and taken straight away.

Morphine is prescribed on a Controlled Drug form and dispensed in 10 day lots.

## If you miss a dose

Take your dose 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:

- shortness of breath
- rash
- irregular heart beat
- difficulty urinating (going to the toilet)
- mood changes or confusion
- sedation

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

- constipation – almost everyone taking morphine experiences constipation. You should take laxatives regularly, eat plenty of fruit and vegetables and drink plenty of fluids.
- vomiting and/or nausea – many people start to feel sick when they take morphine, however this often disappears in time. Medicine to prevent nausea can be prescribed by your doctor.
- drowsiness – if this affects you, **do not** drive or operate machinery. This side-effect usually disappears in three to five days.
- blurred vision
- dry mouth
- sweating

This list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

### **Other Medicines**

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.

- alcohol can add to the sedative properties of morphine
- anti-depressants (e.g. Amitriptyline, nortriptyline) in combination with morphine can increase the effect of morphine

### **Pregnancy**

Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

### **Storage**

Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

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