

A medication information leaflet for paediatric patients

## PHENOBARBITONE

Other names: Phenobarbitone®



**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.

**The name of your child's medication is: Phenobarbitone**

### Why is your child taking this medicine?

Phenobarbitone is given to help prevent epileptic seizures. Seizures may also be called convulsions or fits.

### When to give this medicine to your child

- Always give exactly as directed by your doctor or pharmacist; never give more than the prescribed dose.
- Give phenobarbitone at the same time(s) every day. Marking a calendar may be a helpful reminder.
- If giving your child phenobarbitone liquid, carefully measure each dose with an oral syringe or medicine measure (available from your community pharmacy). Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the right amount.
- Phenobarbitone is usually commenced at a low dose and this is slowly increased over a period of weeks.
- Make sure you always have a supply of medicine on hand.

**NOTE:** If your child is prescribed phenobarbitone liquid your pharmacist will need to make up a fresh supply each month.

**DO NOT STOP** giving phenobarbitone without your doctor's permission.

### What should you do if your child misses a dose?

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

### What should you do if your child vomits after a dose?

If the vomiting occurs less than 15 minutes after the medicine is given, give the entire dose again. If more than 15 minutes have passed, do not give it again until the next scheduled dose.

## Side effects

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

Call your doctor or speak to your pharmacist **immediately** if your child has any of these side effects:

- severe drowsiness, confusion, hallucinations or slurred speech
- shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- severe skin rash, itching or hives
- swelling of eyelids or face
- yellowing of eyes or skin
- sore throat, fever or chills

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child has these side effects:

- drowsiness, dizziness, unsteadiness, trouble concentrating
- nausea, vomiting
- constipation
- irritability, nervousness or excitement

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

## Other Medication

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

Phenobarbitone can interact with a large number of medicines e.g. doxycycline (antibiotic). Please check with your doctor or pharmacist when stopping or starting medicines as these may affect how well phenobarbitone controls your child's epilepsy.

## 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.**