

Nevirapine | (generic)

This leaflet is designed to give you a general idea of the most important things you need to know about your new medicine. It is not supposed to replace the manufacturer's leaflet that comes with the medicine but is intended to be read alongside it. After reading this leaflet if you have any questions please ask your clinic team.

Clinic contact details:

What is nevirapine?

Nevirapine tablets are available in two different strengths and formulations, as a 200mg immediate-release and a 400mg slow-release tablet. The colour and shape may vary depending on the manufacturer as it is a generic medicine. Nevirapine is also available as a liquid (Viramune[®]) containing 50mg in 5ml.

Nevirapine is used in combination with other medicines for the treatment of HIV. Please speak to your clinic team if you would like more information about how these drugs work.

How should I take nevirapine?

- The recommended dose is: 200mg ONCE a day for 14 days. This lead-in period has been shown to reduce the risk of a skin rash. You will then continue on 200mg TWICE a day.
- Your clinic team may recommend 400mg (TWO tablets) ONCE a day to help simplify your drug regimen or be switched over to the 400mg (ONE tablet) ONCE a day slow-release tablet.
- When taking the twice daily preparation the doses should ideally be 12 hours apart. Try to take the doses at about the same time each day.
- Nevirapine can be taken with or without food.
- If you vomit within 2 hours take another dose. If you continue to vomit please contact your clinic.
- Please do not crush, if you have trouble swallowing this tablet please contact your clinic team.
- Please ensure you bring a supply of your HIV medicines if you are being admitted to hospital to ensure you are prescribed the correct medication and that you do not miss any.

What if I miss a dose?

HIV medicines work best if there is a constant amount of the medicine in your body. If you are worried about forgetting to take your medicines, speak to your clinic team.

Occasionally you may forget a dose. If this happens, please follow the guidance below and speak with your clinic as soon as possible for advice.



- For the 200mg immediate-release tablet/Viramune[®] liquid: If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember.
- If it is more than 8 hours since your dose was due, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your usual time.
- Never take a double dose to make up for the missed one.

What are the common side effects with nevirapine?

If you experience any side effects, and either they are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after you start nevirapine, do not stop taking your medication, instead please contact your clinic team so they can discuss other treatment options with you and/or advise you how to stop safely.

Some examples of the most common side effects are listed below (for a full list of side effects please check the manufacturer information leaflet):



Stomach side effects: stomach discomfort, diarrhoea, nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting



Head side effects: headache, trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, dizziness



Other side effects: fever, tiredness, changes in some of your liver tests

IMPORTANT warnings:

- **Skin rash** - If you get a mild skin rash do not stop taking your nevirapine but contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse and they will advise you on what to do. If you get a severe skin rash or a rash with other symptoms such as fever, blistering, sore mouth or eyes, facial swelling, muscle or joint aches or generally feeling unwell **stop** taking your nevirapine and contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse **IMMEDIATELY**. DO NOT start taking the nevirapine again unless you are told to do so by a member of your clinic team.
- **Liver problems** - Rarely liver damage may occur. This is more likely to happen to women and people with higher CD4 counts. Look out for signs such as loss of appetite, nausea, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes); rash, fever and liver tenderness (pain around the stomach area) which can indicate damage to your liver, particularly in the first 5 months of treatment. You should contact your doctor straight away if these happen.

*If you develop a fever, nausea, headache, tiredness without a rash then it is safe to continue taking the nevirapine. If you experience any side effects that are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after starting nevirapine, speak to your clinic team who will tell you what to do.

Can I take HIV medication if I'm pregnant or breastfeeding?

If you become pregnant or are planning to start a family, do not stop taking your medication. Speak to your clinic so that your care can be managed appropriately. It is important you are on effective treatment to reduce the risk to your unborn child

What medicines should I avoid with nevirapine?

It is important that you tell anyone prescribing you medication about any medicines you are taking. This includes prescribed medicines, recreational or party drugs, and/or supplements you buy over the counter. Always tell your clinic team if you are taking (note this is not an exhaustive list of medicines):

Medicine	Why this is important
St John's wort (a herbal remedy used to treat depression)	These medicines reduce levels of nevirapine in the body, stopping it from working. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on nevirapine before they prescribe these medicines.
Anti-TB drugs: Rifampicin	
Anti-seizure medicines e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin. (Carbamazepine is also sometimes used to treat pain)	
Treatment for prostate cancer: Enzalutamide	
Simvastatin (a cholesterol-lowering medicine)	Nevirapine can reduce the amount of simvastatin in your body. Your clinic team will help choose the right statin for you.
Antibiotics and antifungals	Nevirapine can lower the amount of some antibiotics and antifungals in your blood. Alternatives may need to be considered.
Contraceptives (birth control)	Nevirapine can reduce the amount of contraceptive in your body, making it less effective. Your clinic team can help choose the right method of contraception for you.
Lenacapavir (tablets and injections)	Nevirapine can reduce the amount of lenacapavir in your body, meaning it may be less effective at suppressing the virus. These medicines should not be taken together.
Antiplatelets (e.g clopidogrel), anticoagulants (e.g rivaroxaban)	The levels of some anticoagulants and antiplatelets in your blood are changed by nevirapine. Speak to your clinic team before taking any of these medicines.