



## Norvir® Powder Oral Suspension | (Ritonavir)

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 doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Clinic contact details:

### What is ritonavir (Norvir®) powder oral suspension?

Ritonavir (Norvir®) powder for oral suspension are sachets, each containing 100mg of the drug ritonavir. The powder is beige/pale yellow to yellow in colour.



This medicine 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 ritonavir powder oral suspension?

- The recommended dose is usually 100mg (one sachet) ONCE or TWICE a day depending on the dose of the other protease inhibitor you are taking. Ritonavir must be taken at the same time as your other HIV medicines.
- Pour the entire contents of the sachet (100mg) over soft food (apple sauce or vanilla pudding) or mix with a small amount of liquid (water or chocolate milk). You can take ritonavir with a snack or within 30mins of having a meal.
- Please refer to the manufacturer's leaflet for full details on administration.
- Once prepared the dose must be taken within 2 hours.
- It is important that you make sure that you manage to take ALL of the dose.
- There can sometimes be an after-taste. To help with this, eating peanut butter, hazelnut chocolate spread or blackcurrant syrup immediately afterwards might help.
- If you vomit within 2 hours of taking your medicines, and you can see any signs of the medicines in your vomit then take them again. Contact your clinic team if you continue to vomit.
- 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 doses.

### 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.

- If you take ritonavir **ONCE** daily and you notice a missed dose **within 12 hours** of the time you usually take it, then take the dose as soon as possible. Take the next dose at your usual time.



Always take the ritonavir with your other protease inhibitor. If you notice **12 hours or more after** the time you usually take ritonavir, then wait and take the dose at the usual time.

- If you take ritonavir **TWICE** a day and notice the missed dose **within 6 hours** of the time you usually take ritonavir: take the dose as soon as possible. Take the next dose at your usual time. Always take the ritonavir with your other protease inhibitor. If you **notice 6 hours or more after** the time you usually take ritonavir then wait and take the dose at the usual time.
- Never take a double dose to make up for the missed one.

## What are the common side effects with ritonavir powder oral suspension?

If you experience any side effects, and either they are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after you start ritonavir, 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: feeling sick (nausea), vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal (tummy) pain and indigestion, flatulence and mouth ulcer
-  'Head' side effects: headache, dizziness, tiredness, blurred vision or a tingling sensation or numbness in the hands, feet, or numbness in hands around lips/mouth
-  Other side effects: rash, itching, flushing, feeling hot, throat pain, cough, joint and back pain, changes in liver or kidney tests or changes in cholesterol levels.

## 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 ritonavir powder oral suspension?

It is important that you tell anyone prescribing for you 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 any of the following (note this is not an exhaustive list of medicines):

Medicine	Why you need to know?
St John's Wort (a herbal remedy used to treat depression) Anti-TB drugs: Rifampicin & rifabutin Anti-seizure medicines e.g. carbamazepine (also used to treat pain) Treatment for prostate cancer: Enzalutamide	Do not use these drugs as they can reduce the levels of rilpivirine in the body and can cause it to stop working properly. Do not start taking these medicines and inform your doctor.
Steroid containing medicines including inhalers, nasal sprays, eyedrops, creams, ointments or injections	Steroid containing products can interact with ritonavir and can build up in your body leading to side effects. For example, creams and ointments, eye drops, inhalers and nasal sprays which contain steroids such as fluticasone, can interact with ritonavir. Your clinic will be able to advise you about alternative options. Please ask your clinic pharmacist for a copy of the HIVPA steroid interaction card which provides

	further information on specific examples of steroid preparations.
Anticoagulants (e.g. rivaroxaban) and antiplatelets (e.g. clopidogrel, ticagrelor)	The levels of some anticoagulants and antiplatelets in your blood are changed by ritonavir, and therefore these medicines should not be taken together. Your clinic team will need to know if you are taking any anticoagulants or antiplatelets before prescribing ritonavir.
Statins (cholesterol-lowering medicines)	Some statins are affected by ritonavir which may lead to more side effects. Your clinic doctor will help choose the right statin for you.
Hormonal contraceptives (birth control)	Some HIV medicines reduce the effectiveness of contraceptives and some can increase levels which can increase the likelihood of side-effects. Please speak with your clinic about the best options for you.
Recreational/party drugs	Ritonavir interacts with many recreational/party drugs which can be dangerous. If you take/use any recreational/party drug please discuss this with your clinical team.