

This product is no longer marketed in New Zealand and this consumer medicine information may not be up to date. More up-to-date consumer medicine information for a product with the same active ingredient may be available on the Medsafe website.

## RHEUMACIN



### *Indomethacin 25mg, 50mg and 75mg (SR) Capsules*

---

## What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about RHEUMACIN. It does not contain all the information available on this medicine. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of using RHEUMACIN against the benefits expected it will have for you. If you have any concerns about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may want to read it again.

---

## What RHEUMACIN is used for and how it works

Your RHEUMACIN capsules contain the active ingredient. Indomethacin belongs to a group of medicines known as NSAIDs (non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs).

RHEUMACIN is used to relieve symptoms of pain and reduce inflammation (swelling, redness and soreness) in a variety of conditions.

Your doctor may, however have prescribed RHEUMACIN for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why RHEUMACIN has been prescribed for you.

There is no evidence RHEUMACIN is addictive.

RHEUMACIN is available on prescription from your doctor.

---

## Before you take RHEUMACIN

### *When you must not take it*

**Do not take RHEUMACIN if:**

- you are allergic to Indomethacin or any of the other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- you have an allergy to aspirin or any other NSAIDs
- you have a history of peptic ulcers (i.e. stomach or duodenal ulcer), or have an active peptic ulcer
- you have or have had inflammation of the lining of the stomach or bowel
- you are pregnant, or intend to become pregnant. Rheumacin may affect your developing baby if you take it during pregnancy.
- you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed. Rheumacin passes into breast milk and therefore may harm the baby
- The packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering
- The expiry date (EXP) printed on the back has passed.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.

If you are not sure whether you should start using Rheumacin, talk to your doctor.

**Do not give to children under 2 years of age.**

The safety of Rheumacin in children under 2 years of age has not been established.

***Before you take it***

**Tell your doctor if you have or have had:**

- liver or kidney problems
- psychiatric (mental) problems
- epilepsy
- Parkinson's disease
- heart problems or high blood pressure
- bowel or intestinal illnesses
- heartburn, indigestion, stomach ulcer or other stomach problems
- diabetes
- a condition that effects how well your blood clots
- a dependency on alcohol
- fluid retention
- are or have been a smoker

Caution is advised in the elderly

**Tell your doctor if you currently have an infection.**

If you use Rheumacin while you have an infection, the capsules may hide some of the signs of an infection. This may mistakenly cause you to think that you are better, or that the infection is less serious than it actually is.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start to use Rheumacin.**

***Taking other medicines***

If you are taking any other medicines, including any you get without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

**Medicines that may interfere with RHEUMACIN include:**

- aspirin, salicylates or any other NSAIDs
- diflunisal (another medication used to relieve pain and inflammation)
- anticoagulants, medicines used to help prevent blood clots e.g. warfarin
- probenecid, a medicine used to treat gout
- methotrexate, a medicine used to suppress the immune system
- cyclosporin, a medicine used to suppress the immune system
- lithium, a medicine used to treat sever mood swings
- diuretics, also called fluid or water tablets
- digoxin, a medicine used to treat heart failure
- antihypertensive medicines (used to treat high blood pressure)
- phenylpropanolamine (found in decongestants)

These medicines may be affected by RHEUMACIN or may affect how well RHEUMACIN works. You may need different amounts of your medicines or you may need to take a different medicine. It is therefore important that you discuss this with your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking RHEUMACIN.

---

## How to take RHEUMACIN properly

---

### ***How much to take***

**Your doctor will tell you how much RHEUMACIN you need to take each day. It is important that you take RHEUMACIN as directed by your doctor. Do not take more than the recommended dose.**

The usual daily dose of RHEUMACIN is between 50 and 200mg daily in divided doses. The exact amount will be calculated by your doctor and should take into account how well you tolerate this medicine. In order to minimise the chance of any side effects your doctor will often start with a low dose and then may wish to increase this later. It is important that you only change the dose if your doctor advises you to do so.

Elderly patients can be more susceptible to the risk of adverse reactions and therefore, in general, lower dosages are recommended.

It is best to take your RHEUMACIN during or immediately after a meal with a glass of water. Rheumacin may also be taken with an antacid, if advised by your doctor or pharmacist. This will help minimise the possibility of any gastrointestinal problems.

The use of RHEUMACIN is not recommended for children.

If you don't understand the instructions on the bottle, ask your pharmacist or doctor for advice.

### ***How long to take it***

Depending on your condition, you may need RHEUMACIN for a few days, a few weeks or much longer periods. Continue taking RHEUMACIN for as long as your doctor prescribes.

As with other NSAIDs, if you are using RHEUMACIN for arthritis, RHEUMACIN will help control your condition but does not cure it. Therefore, RHEUMACIN must be taken everyday.

For strains and sprains, RHEUMACIN is usually only needed for a few days.

### ***If you forget a dose***

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

**Do not take more than one dose at a time to make up for the dose that you missed.**

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Taking your medicine at the same time each day may help you to remember to take it regularly. If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

---

## While you are taking RHEUMACIN

---

### ***Things you must do***

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking RHEUMACIN.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking RHEUMACIN before you start any new medicine.

Tell your doctor if you develop a skin rash or hives while taking RHEUMACIN.

Tell your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while using RHEUMACIN.

If you are going to have a surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking RHEUMACIN.

If you are going to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking RHEUMACIN.

If you get an infection while taking RHEUMACIN tell your doctor. RHEUMACIN, may hide some of the signs of an infection and mistakenly make you think you are better or that the infection is not serious.

If you are taking RHEUMACIN long term your doctor may wish to check that your liver and kidney function is not being affected. The doctor will determine if this is necessary in a case-by-case manner.

### ***Things you must not do***

Do not take RHEUMACIN to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not stop taking RHEUMACIN or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if his or her symptoms seem similar to yours.

### ***Things to be careful of***

**Be careful when driving, operating machinery or performing jobs that need you to be alert, until you are certain that RHEUMACIN does not affect your performance.**

RHEUMACIN may cause dizziness or tiredness in some people. If you drink alcohol, dizziness or light-headedness may be worse.

---

## **Side effects**

---

Tell your pharmacist or doctor as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking RHEUMACIN.

All medicines can have some unwanted effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- headache, dizziness, light-headedness
- changes in mood including depression
- tiredness, spinning sensation (vertigo)
- stomach upset including nausea (feeling sick), vomiting, abdominal pain
- loss of appetite
- constipation, diarrhoea
- ringing ears or other hearing disturbances
- flushing, sweating

These are the more common side effects of Indomethacin.

**Tell your doctor immediately if you experience:**

severe stomach pain or tenderness  
eye problems including blurred vision  
irregular heart beat  
bleeding or bruising more frequently  
jaundice (symptoms include yellowing of the skin and eyes), hepatitis  
rash, itchy skin, loss of hair  
unusual weight gain, swelling of ankles or legs  
signs of anaemia such as tiredness, being short of breath, looking pale  
changes in the frequency that you urinate or difficulty passing urine  
dark coloured or cloudy urine

**These are all serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.**

**If any of the following happen, stop taking RHEUMACIN and tell your doctor immediately or go to the accident and emergency at your nearest hospital:**

**Tell your doctor immediately if you experience:**

vomiting blood or material that look like ground up coffee beans  
bleeding from the back passage, black sticky bowel motions (stools ) or bloody diarrhoea  
swelling of the face, lips or tongue which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing  
asthma, wheezing, shortness of breath  
sudden or severe itching, skin rash, hives or skin hypersensitivity  
severe dizziness, light-headedness or fainting  
confusion, disorientation, involuntary insomnia, coma  
seizure or fits  
sudden pain or tightness in the chest

**These are serious side effects that may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.**

The list of side effects mentioned above is not complete. If you should suffer from any of these side effects or any other undesired effect please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

**Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.**

---

## **In case of overdose**

---

You should only take the number of capsules that you have been told.

**Immediately contact your doctor or the National Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) or go to the Emergency department at your nearest hospital, if you think that you may have taken too much, or if anyone else has taken any RHEUMACIN by mistake. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.** Take the container of RHEUMACIN with you if you can.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

---

## **Storage conditions**

---

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date shown on the label or if the packaging shows signs of tampering.

Keep your RHEUMACIN capsules in the container until it is time to take them.

Store below 25°C and out of reach of children. Avoid exposure to heat, light and moisture.

Do not store RHEUMACIN, or any other medicine, in the bathroom or near a sink.

### ***Disposal***

If your doctor tells you to stop taking RHEUMACIN or if the capsules have passed the expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with the remaining medicine.

---

## **Product Description**

---

### ***What RHEUMACIN capsules look like***

**RHEUMACIN comes in two forms of capsule;**

RHEUMACIN SR (Sustained release) capsules (75mg)

RHEUMACIN capsules (25mg and 50mg).

**RHEUMACIN SR Capsules** are clear capsules with half the capsule colourless and the other half yellow. Each capsule is filled with small off-white coloured balls.

Each RHEUMACIN SR Capsule contains 75mg of the active ingredient Indomethacin.

Each RHEUMACIN 75mg SR capsule also contains sucrose, corn starch, lactose, povidone, purified talc, magnesium stearate and the film coat (eudragit "L" and eudragit "S")

**RHEUMACIN Capsules** come in 25mg and 50mg strengths. Both strengths are white coloured capsules that contain a white powder. The 25mg capsule is slightly shorter in length than the 50mg capsule.

The 25mg capsule contains 25mg of the active ingredient Indomethacin and the 50mg capsule contains 50mg of the active ingredient Indomethacin.

Both RHEUMACIN 25mg and 50mg capsules also contain lactose hydrous, sodium starch glycollate, sodium lauryl sulphate, magnesium stearate and the titanium dioxide.

---

## **If you want to know more**

---

Should you have any questions regarding this product, please contact your doctor or pharmacist.

### ***Who supplies this medicine***

Distributed in New Zealand by:

Mylan New Zealand Ltd,  
PO Box 11183,  
Ellerslie,  
Auckland.

Telephone: (09) 579 2792

### ***Date of information***

2 February 2009

(Based on datasheet dated 2 February 2009)

