

# FLUCLOXACILLIN

## Flucloxacillin, as the sodium salt

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about FLUCLOXACILLIN. 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 FLUCLOXACILLIN against the benefits expected it will have for you. If you have concerns about using this medicine ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.

### What FLUCLOXACILLIN is used for and how it works

FLUCLOXACILLIN contains the active ingredient flucloxacillin. Flucloxacillin is an antibiotic that belongs to a group of medicines called penicillins. These medicines work by killing the bacteria that are causing infection.

FLUCLOXACILLIN is used to treat infections caused by bacteria. Examples of some of the infections that may be caused by bacteria include respiratory tract infections and skin or fleshy tissue skin infections.

FLUCLOXACILLIN will not work against infections caused by viruses, such as colds or the flu.

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

There is no evidence that FLUCLOXACILLIN is addictive.

FLUCLOXACILLIN is available only with a doctor's prescription.

### Before you take FLUCLOXACILLIN

**WARNING: Flucloxacillin can cause severe liver damage, particularly in older patients and those who take it for more than 14 days.**

#### ***When you must not take FLUCLOXACILLIN:***

Do not take FLUCLOXACILLIN if you are allergic to:

- medicines containing flucloxacillin or any other penicillin;
- cephalosporin antibiotics;
- beta-lactam antibiotics;
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or troubled breathing.

**Do not take FLUCLOXACILLIN if you have had a reaction that has affected your liver while you were taking a medicine containing flucloxacillin.** Examples of liver reactions include hepatitis and jaundice (yellowing of the eyes or skin).

Do not take FLUCLOXACILLIN if the expiry date has passed.

### ***Before you start to take it***

**Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.**

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking FLUCLOXACILLIN during pregnancy.

**Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding or wish to breastfeed.** A very small quantity of FLUCLOXACILLIN passes into breast milk. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking FLUCLOXACILLIN when breastfeeding.

**Tell your doctor if you have any medical conditions, especially the following:**

- liver problems;
- kidney problems;
- asthma, hay fever, eczema or other allergic conditions.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking FLUCLOXACILLIN.

### ***Taking other medicines***

**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines may be affected by FLUCLOXACILLIN, or may affect how well it works. Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you what to do if you are taking FLUCLOXACILLIN with other medicines. In particular tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking probenecid, a medicine commonly used to treat gout.

Some antibiotics may decrease the effectiveness of some birth control pills, although this has not been shown with FLUCLOXACILLIN. Talk to your doctor about the need for additional contraception while taking FLUCLOXACILLIN.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking FLUCLOXACILLIN.

## **How to take FLUCLOXACILLIN properly**

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

Your doctor will tell you how much you need to take each day and when to take it. This depends on your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.

For most infections, the usual adult dose is 250 mg to 500 mg every 8 hours, however, this will depend on the severity of the infection.

**Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully.**

### ***How to take FLUCLOXACILLIN***

**Swallow the capsules whole with a glass of water.**

**Take FLUCLOXACILLIN on an empty stomach, for example, half to one hour before meals or just before you go to bed.** Food can interfere with the absorption of FLUCLOXACILLIN.

### ***If you forget to take FLUCLOXACILLIN***

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 the missed dose as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your capsules as you would normally.

**Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.**

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

### ***How long to take FLUCLOXACILLIN for***

**Keep taking FLUCLOXACILLIN until you finish the pack, or for as long as your doctor recommends.**

**Do not stop taking FLUCLOXACILLIN, even if you feel better after a few days, unless advised by your doctor.** Your infection may not clear completely if you stop taking your medicine too soon.

## **While you are taking FLUCLOXACILLIN**

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

**Before starting any new medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking FLUCLOXACILLIN.**

**Tell all the doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking FLUCLOXACILLIN.**

If your symptoms do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.

**If you develop jaundice (yellowing of the eyes or skin), tell your doctor immediately.** Do this even if it occurs several weeks after you have stopped taking FLUCLOXACILLIN. Jaundice may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your liver. You may need urgent medical care.

**If you get severe diarrhoea, tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately.** Do this even if it occurs several weeks after you have stopped taking FLUCLOXACILLIN. Diarrhoea may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your bowel. You may need urgent medical care. Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without first checking with your doctor.

**If you get a sore, white mouth or tongue while taking or soon after stopping FLUCLOXACILLIN, tell your doctor. Also tell your doctor if you get vaginal itching or discharge.** This may mean you have a fungal infection called thrush. Sometimes, the use of FLUCLOXACILLIN allows fungi to grow and the above symptoms to occur. FLUCLOXACILLIN does not work against fungi.

If you are taking FLUCLOXACILLIN for a long time, visit your doctor regularly so that they can check on your progress.

You may need to have tests to check your liver.

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

**Do not use FLUCLOXACILLIN to treat any other conditions unless your doctor tells you to.**

**Do not give FLUCLOXACILLIN to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.**

### **Side effects**

**IMPORTANT:** Flucloxacillin can cause severe liver damage, which can make the skin and whites of the eyes turn yellow in colour. This is more likely to occur in older patients and those who take it for more than 14 days. Immediately contact your doctor if you notice any yellowing of your eyes or skin.

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

FLUCLOXACILLIN treats infections in most people however; it may cause side effects in some people.

All medicines can have side 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.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

### ***While you are taking FLUCLOXACILLIN***

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

- feeling sick or vomiting;
- stomach upset, diarrhoea;
- oral thrush (white, furry sore tongue and mouth);
- vaginal thrush (sore and itchy vagina, vaginal discharge).

These are the more common side effects of FLUCLOXACILLIN. Mostly these are mild and short-lived.

**Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:**

- watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody;
- severe stomach cramps;
- tiredness, headaches, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale;
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal;
- frequent infections such as fever, chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers;
- yellowing of the eyes or skin (jaundice);
- painful, swollen joints;
- aching muscles, muscle tenderness or weakness, not caused by exercise;
- dark or cloudy urine, blood in the urine.

These may be serious side effects of FLUCLOXACILLIN. You may need urgent medical attention. These serious side effects are very rare.

**If any of the following happen, stop taking FLUCLOXACILLIN and tell your doctor immediately, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital:**

- skin rash, itching or hives;
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body;
- shortness of breath, wheezing or troubled breathing.

If you experience any of these side effects, you may have had a serious allergic reaction to FLUCLOXACILLIN. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.

### ***After you have finished taking FLUCLOXACILLIN***

**Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following, even if they occur several weeks after stopping treatment with FLUCLOXACILLIN:**

- watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody;
- severe stomach cramps;
- yellowing of the eyes or skin (jaundice).

**Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients.**

**Tell your doctor if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

**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 tablets 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 FLUCLOXACILLIN by mistake. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention. Take the container of FLUCLOXACILLIN with you if you can.**

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

## **Storage conditions**

**Keep FLUCLOXACILLIN where children cannot reach it.** A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground are a good place to store medicines.

**Keep FLUCLOXACILLIN tablets in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 25 °C.**

**Keep FLUCLOXACILLIN mixture in the refrigerator but not in the freezer.**

**Do not use any mixture left in the bottle after 10 days.**

**Do not store FLUCLOXACILLIN or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.**

**Do not leave FLUCLOXACILLIN in the car or on windowsills.** Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

If your doctor tells you to stop taking FLUCLOXACILLIN, or your medicine has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that is left over.

## **Product Description**

### ***What it looks like***

FLUCLOXACILLIN is available in capsules or as syrup.  
FLUCLOXACILLIN capsules come in two strengths: FLUCLOXACILLIN 250 mg and FLUCLOXACILLIN 500 mg. Both are grey/caramel coloured.  
FLUCLOXACILLIN syrup is red coloured solution.

### ***Ingredients***

The active ingredient in FLUCLOXACILLIN tablets and syrup is flucloxacillin (as flucloxacillin sodium).

Each FLUCLOXACILLIN 250 capsule contains 250 mg of flucloxacillin as the sodium salt.

Each FLUCLOXACILLIN 500 capsule contains 500 mg of flucloxacillin as the sodium salt.

The capsules also contain the following inactive ingredients (excipients):

- Silicon dioxide
- Magnesium stearate.

The capsules are gluten and lactose free.

Each 5 ml of reconstituted FLUCLOXACILLIN Syrup 125 mg/5 ml solution contains 125 mg flucloxacillin as the sodium salt.

Each 5 ml of reconstituted FLUCLOXACILLIN Syrup 250 mg/5 ml solution contains 250 mg flucloxacillin as the sodium salt.

**The syrup also contains the following inactive ingredients (excipients):**

- Disodium edentate;
- Sodium citrate dehydrate;
- Sucrose;
- Ammonium glycyrrhizinate;
- Saccharin sodium;
- Sodium benzoate;
- Pineapple flavour;
- Menthol flavour and
- FD&C Red.

## **Further Information**

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

Distributed in New Zealand by:  
AFT Pharmaceuticals Ltd  
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## **Date of preparation**

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