

# NORVIR®

ritonavir (ri-to-na-vir)

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Norvir.

It does not contain all the available information. 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 you taking this medicine against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

### What Norvir is used for

Norvir is used to treat HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infections.

It belongs to a group of medicines called protease inhibitors.

Norvir works by interfering with an enzyme that the HIV virus needs to infect new cells.

It may be given alone or with certain other anti-HIV medicines. Your doctor will determine which medicines are best for you.

Norvir has not been shown to decrease the chance of transmitting HIV to a sexual partner. You must continue to use safe sexual practices (e.g. condoms) while taking Norvir.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about why it has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another purpose.

This medicine is not addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

There is not enough information to recommend the use of this medicine for children under the age of 12 years.

### Before you take Norvir

**When you must not take it**

**Do not take Norvir if you have an allergy to:**

- any medicine containing ritonavir
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

Some 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
- hives, rash or itching of the skin.

**Do not take Norvir if you are currently taking any of the following medicines:**

- alfuzosin (used to treat enlarged prostate gland in men);
- apalutamide (used to treat prostate cancer);
- amiodarone, bepridil, dronedarone, encainide,

flecainide, propafenone, quinidine (used to correct irregular heartbeats);

- ranolazine (used to treat angina);
- fusidic acid (an antibiotic);
- voriconazole (used to treat fungal infections);
- colchicine (used to treat gout) if you have kidney and/or liver problems;
- astemizole, terfenadine (antihistamines used to treat allergy symptoms - these medicines may be available without prescription);
- rifabutin (used to prevent certain infections)
- blonanserin, clozapine, lurasidone, pimozide (used to treat certain psychological and emotional conditions);
- dihydroergotamine, ergotamine (used to treat migraine headache);
- ergometrine, methylergometrine (used to stop excessive bleeding that may occur following childbirth or an abortion);
- cisapride (used to relieve certain stomach problems);
- products containing St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) as this may stop Norvir from working properly. St John's wort is often used in herbal medicines that you can buy yourself;
- lomitapide (used to lower blood cholesterol);
- neratinib (used for breast cancer);
- lomitamide, lovastatin, simvastatin (used to lower blood cholesterol);

- salmeterol (used as a long acting reliever of asthma symptoms);
- pethidine, piroxicam, dextropropoxyphene (used to relieve pain);
- sildenafil if you suffer from a lung disease called pulmonary arterial hypertension that makes breathing difficult. Patients without this disease may use sildenafil for erectile dysfunction under their doctor's supervision;
- clorazepate, diazepam, estazolam, flurazepam, triazolam, oral midazolam, zolpidem (used to help you sleep and/or relieve anxiety).

**Read the list of medicines under 'Taking other medicines' for information on certain other medicines which require special care.**

**Do not take Norvir after the expiry date printed on the bottle or if the packaging is damaged or shows signs of tampering.**

If it has expired or is damaged return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

**If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.**

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

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have any allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:**

- liver problems or problems with your pancreas.
- hepatitis B or C and are being treated with a combination of antiretroviral agents, as you may be at a greater risk of developing serious side effects.
- haemophilia, as there have been reports of increased bleeding in patients with haemophilia who are taking this type of medicine.

- diabetes, as there have been reports of worsening of or the development of diabetes in some patients taking this type of medicine.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant, intend to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding.**

Your doctor or pharmacist can discuss the risks and benefits involved.

**If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you take Norvir.**

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

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

If Norvir is taken in combination with other medicines, it is important that you also carefully read the leaflets that are provided with these other medicines. They may include additional information in those leaflets about situations when Norvir should be avoided.

**If you have any further questions about Norvir or the other medicines prescribed, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

Some medicines and Norvir may interfere with each other. These include:

- digoxin (used to correct irregular heartbeats);
- didanosine, zidovudine, delaviridine, efavirenz, saquinavir, amprenavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, tipranavir, maraviroc, raltegravir (other antiviral treatments);
- glecaprevir/pibrentasvir, simeprevir (used to treat chronic hepatitis C);
- fentanyl (used to relieve pain);
- rifabutin, bedaquiline, delamanid (used to prevent/treat certain infections);

- ketoconazole (used to treat fungal infections);
- clarithromycin, sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim (used to treat infections);
- warfarin, rivaroxaban (used to thin the blood);
- trazodone, desipramine (used to treat depression);
- quetiapine (used to treat psychiatric disorders);
- fluticasone, budesonide, triamcinolone (used to treat inflammation);
- disulfiram (used to treat alcohol dependence);
- metronidazole (used to treat certain parasite infections);
- sildenafil, avanafil, tadalafil, vardenafil (used to treat erectile dysfunction);
- atorvastatin, rosuvastatin (used to lower blood cholesterol levels);
- bupropion (used to help smoking cessation);
- bosentan (used to treat a condition called pulmonary arterial hypertension);
- theophylline (used to treat chronic lung conditions);
- abemaciclib, dasatinib, encorafenib, ibrutinib, ivosidenib, neratinib, nilotinib, vincristine, vinblastine (used to treat different types of cancer);
- venetoclax, (used to treat chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL));
- elagolix (used for moderate to severe pain associated with endometriosis);
- fostamatinib (used for low blood platelet count);
- buspirone (used to help you sleep and/or relieve anxiety)

These medicines may be affected by Norvir, or may affect how well it works. You may need to use different amounts of your medicine, or take different medicines.

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

### **Other interactions**

There are many other medicines that may not mix with Norvir because their effects could potentially increase or decrease when taken together. In some cases your doctor may need to perform certain tests, change the dose or monitor you regularly. This is why you should tell your doctor if you are taking any medicines or herbal products, including those you have bought yourself. Your doctor may need to prescribe different amounts of your medicine for you to take, or put you on a different medicine altogether. Norvir affects the way oral contraceptives or patches work. Another form of contraception should be considered whilst you are taking Norvir.

Norvir interacts with sildenafil, tadalafil and vardenafil, which are used for erectile dysfunction. The dosage of these medicines should be reduced to avoid damage to the penis. You must not take Norvir with sildenafil if you also suffer from pulmonary arterial hypertension.

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## **How to take Norvir**

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

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**If you do not understand the instructions on the bottle, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

### **How much to take and when to take it**

The usual dose is 600 mg (6 tablets) of ritonavir taken twice a day.

### **How to take it**

**Take Norvir with food. Swallow tablets whole with a full glass of water. Do not break, crush or chew.**

### **When to take it**

**Take your Norvir at regular twelve-hour intervals at about the same time each day.**

Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take your medicine.

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

**Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.**

**Norvir is not a cure for your HIV infection, but helps control it. Therefore, Norvir must be taken every day.**

**Tell your doctor straight away if a side effect is preventing you from taking Norvir.**

**Always keep enough Norvir on hand so you don't run out.**

When you travel or need to stay in the hospital, make sure you have enough Norvir to last until you can get a new supply.

**Do not stop taking Norvir without talking to your doctor, even if you feel better.**

Taking Norvir as recommended should give you the best chance of delaying resistance to the medicines. You may continue to develop infections or other illnesses associated with HIV disease while you are taking Norvir.

### **If you forget to take it**

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

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

**Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to**

**taking your medicine as you would normally.**

This may increase the chance of getting an unwanted side effect.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do.**

**Ask your pharmacist for hints if you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine.**

### **If you take too much (overdose)**

**Immediately telephone your doctor, or the Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766), or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Norvir.**

**Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include tingling, prickling, or numbness of the skin.

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## **While you are using Norvir**

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### **Things you must do**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately if you become pregnant while you are taking this medicine.**

Norvir may pass into breast milk. To avoid transmitting the infection, mothers with HIV should not breast feed their babies.

**Remind your doctor that you are taking Norvir if you are about to be started on any new medicine.**

**Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.**

**Tell your surgeon that you are taking this medicine if you are going to have surgery.**

**Tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine if you are about to have any blood tests.**

It may interfere with the results of some tests.

**Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.**

Your doctor may do some tests from time to time to make sure the medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

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

**Do not take this medicine to treat any other complaints unless your doctor or pharmacist tells you to.**

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

**Do not stop taking Norvir, or change the dosage, without checking with your doctor.**

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

**Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Norvir affects you.**

Norvir generally does not cause problems with your ability to drive a car or operate machinery. However, as with many medicines, Norvir may cause dizziness, sleepiness and nausea in some people.

Make sure you know how you react to Norvir before you drive a car or operate machinery.

### ***Side effects***

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

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

Frequently, it is difficult to tell whether side effects are the result of taking Norvir, effects of the HIV disease or side effects of other medicines you may be taking. For this reason, it is very important to

inform your doctor of any change in your condition.

Your doctor may want to change your dose or advise you to stop taking Norvir.

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

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

- nausea, vomiting
- diarrhoea
- feeling of weakness
- stomach ache
- headache
- tingling sensation
- change in taste sensation
- feeling weak / tired

The above list includes the more common side effects of your medicine. They are usually mild and short-lived.

The following side effects have also been reported:

- allergic reactions including skin rashes (may be red, raised, itchy), severe swelling of the skin and other tissues
- difficulty in breathing
- flushing of the skin
- dizziness
- inability to sleep (insomnia)
- anxiety
- sleepiness
- numbness
- unusual sensitivity of the skin
- heartburn
- sore throat
- increased cough
- wind (flatulence)
- loss of appetite
- dry mouth
- belching
- mouth ulcer
- sweating

- muscle aches
- fever
- pain
- weight loss
- laboratory test results: changes in blood test results (such as blood chemistry and blood count)
- kidney stones

**Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:**

- dehydration (thirst)
- diabetes (high sugar levels in the blood which may be accompanied by symptoms like frequent urination, excessive thirst, lack of energy)
- jaundice (yellowing of the skin or whites of eyes)
- muscle pain, tenderness or weakness
- hepatitis (inflammation of the liver)

The above list includes serious side effects that may require medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

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

- severe or life threatening skin reaction including blisters (Stevens Johnson syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis)
- serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)
- high levels of sugar in the blood

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. These side effects are rare.

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

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some people.

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## After using Norvir

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### **Storage**

**Keep your tablets in the bottle until it is time to take them.**

If you take the tablets out of the bottle they may not keep well.

**Keep your tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.**

**Do not store Norvir or any other medicine in the bathroom, near a sink, or on a windowsill. Do not leave it in the car.**

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

**Keep it where children cannot reach it.**

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

### **Disposal**

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

- hypromellose
- titanium dioxide
- macrogol 400
- hydroxypropylcellulose
- talc - purified
- macrogol 3350
- polysorbate 80

### **Supplier**

Norvir is supplied in New Zealand by:

AbbVie Limited  
6th Floor, 156-158 Victoria St  
Wellington 6011

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## Product description

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### **What it looks like**

Norvir film coated tablets are white debossed with Abbott logo and the code "NK", and are supplied in bottles containing 30 tablets.

### **Ingredients**

Norvir film coated tablets contain 100 mg ritonavir with the following inactive ingredients:

- copovidone
- calcium hydrogen phosphate anhydrous
- sorbitan monolaurate
- silica - colloidal anhydrous
- sodium stearyl fumarate