

# NEW ZEALAND CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

## D-PENAMINE

### *D-penicillamine Tablets 125 mg & 250 mg*



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## What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about D-PENAMINE.

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 D-PENAMINE against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

**Keep this leaflet with your medicine.** You may need to read it again.

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## What D-PENAMINE is used for

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Your D-PENAMINE tablets contain the active ingredient, D-penicillamine.

D-PENAMINE is a chelating agent. This means that it binds to certain metals in the body including lead, copper, gold and mercury to help remove them from the body if necessary. D-PENAMINE is used to relieve the pain and stiffness of rheumatoid arthritis if other medicines and rest have not helped.

D-PENAMINE is used to treat the following conditions:

- severe, active rheumatoid arthritis (painful joint disease)
- lead poisoning and other heavy metal poisoning
- Wilson's disease (a condition which results in too much copper in the body)

- cystinuria (a condition which can result in kidney stones)

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

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

This medicine is not expected to affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

There is not enough information to recommend the use of this medicine in children.

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## Before you take D-PENAMINE

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### *When you must not take it*

**Do not take D-PENAMINE if you have an allergy to:**

- any medicine containing D-penicillamine
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the 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.

**Do not take D-PENAMINE if after taking D-penicillamine you have ever had:**

- agranulocytosis (a low white blood cell count)
- aplastic anaemia (a severe reduction in blood cells which can cause weakness, bruising or make infections more likely)

- thrombocytopenia (a blood disorder which causes bleeding or bruising more easily than normal).

**Do not take D-PENAMINE if you:**

- have ever had lupus erythematosus (an allergic condition which causes skin rashes)
- suffer from moderate or severe kidney problems.
- **are receiving gold therapy or taking anti-malarial medicines.**

**Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn 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 if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

**Tell your doctor if you have:**

- protein or blood in your urine
- leucopenia (a blood disorder which causes susceptibility to infection)
- ever had side effects with gold.

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breast-feeding.**

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking D-PENAMINE.**

## ***Taking other medicines***

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

Some medicines and D-PENAMINE may interfere with each other. These include:

- gold, used to treat rheumatoid arthritis
- iron therapy, used to treat low iron levels or anaemia
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) e.g. ibuprofen or naproxen, medicines used to treat arthritis and for pain relief
- antacids, medicines used to treat heartburn and indigestion
- digoxin, medicine used for irregular heartbeat
- clozapine, medicine used to treat schizophrenia
- zinc, used to treat low zinc levels.

These medicines may be affected by D-PENAMINE or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

Take D-PENAMINE one hour apart from other medicines.

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

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## **How to take D-PENAMINE**

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**Follow all directions given to you by your doctor and 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***

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

The usual starting dose for rheumatoid arthritis is no more than 250 mg daily for the first month. This dose is increased by the same amount at intervals of no less than one month until a daily dose of 1500 mg has been reached.

For the treatment of Wilson's disease, the usual dose of D-PENAMINE is 1500 mg to 2000 mg a day.

For the treatment of cystinuria, the usual dose of D-PENAMINE is 750 mg to 1000 mg a day in divided doses.

For the treatment of lead poisoning, the usual dose of D-PENAMINE is 250 mg to 1000 mg a day in divided doses.

D-PENAMINE is not recommended for use in children.

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

**Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water.**

### ***When to take it***

**Take your medicine 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 it.

**Take your medicine on an empty stomach, at least one hour before meals or two hours after meals, and at least one hour apart from any other medicine, food or milk.** Food can interfere with the absorption of this medicine.

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

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

This medicine helps to control your condition, but does not cure it. It is important to keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

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

**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 your medicine as you would normally.**

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

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

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

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

**Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much D-PENAMINE. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.**

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## **While you are taking D-PENAMINE**

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

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking D-PENAMINE.**

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

**If you become pregnant while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.**

**If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine.**

**If you are about to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine. 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 to check your blood and kidneys 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 D-PENAMINE to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.**

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

**Do not stop taking your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.**

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**Side effects**

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

This medicine helps most people for the condition it is given for, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them.**

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

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

- you have an allergic reaction which includes sudden wheeziness, chest pain, difficulty in breathing, sudden swelling, fever, skin rash or itching
- you feel weak and are more susceptible to infection

- you have a fever and ulcers in the mouth or throat
- you notice blood in your urine
- you have blistering of the skin, mouth, eyes and genitals
- you notice bleeding into your skin, bruising and more bleeding than usual after an injury.

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

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

- sore mouth
- swollen breast tissue
- hair loss
- wrinkly skin
- abnormalities of the elastic fibres in the skin which cause clusters of small reddish bumps usually on the neck or arms.

All of the above side effects are rare.

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

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

Some of these side effects (for example, protein in your urine) can only be found when your doctor does tests from time to time to check your progress.

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**After taking D-PENAMINE**

**Storage**

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

The container has been designed to help protect the tablets. If you take the tablets out of the bottle they may not keep well.

Keep the bottle tightly closed.

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

Do not store D-PENAMINE or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on a window sill. 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 expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.**

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**Product Description**

**What it looks like**

D-PENAMINE 125 mg tablets are white, round film-coated tablets. They are marked with "DS" on one side and "125" on the other.

D-PENAMINE 250 mg tablets are white, round film-coated tablets. They are marked with "DM" on one side and "250" on the other.

**Ingredients**

D-PENAMINE 125 mg tablets contain 125 mg of D-penicillamine as the active ingredient.

D-PENAMINE 250 mg tablets contain 250 mg of D-penicillamine as the active ingredient.

Each D-PENAMINE tablet also contains: microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, sodium starch glycolate, stearic acid, glycerol, hypromellose, titanium dioxide.

Sulfites may be present in this product in trace amounts.

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**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,  
P O Box 11183,  
Ellerslie,  
Auckland.

Telephone: 0800 579 811

## ***Date of information***

23 June 2021 (based on datasheet dated 23 June 2021).