

# Curam<sup>®</sup>

Powder for oral suspension

125/31.25: Once reconstituted with 95 mL of water, each 5 mL contains amoxicillin trihydrate/potassium clavulanate equivalent to 125 mg amoxicillin/31.25 mg clavulanic acid

250/62.5: Once reconstituted with 90 mL of water, each 5 mL contains amoxicillin trihydrate/potassium clavulanate equivalent to 250 mg amoxicillin/62.5 mg clavulanic acid

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## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

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### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Curam.

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.

**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.

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### What Curam is used for

This medicine is used for the short term treatment of a wide range of infections caused by bacteria. These infections may affect:

- the chest (bronchitis or pneumonia)
- the bladder (cystitis)
- the sinuses (sinusitis)
- the ears (otitis media)
- the bones and joints (osteomyelitis)
- or the skin.

It works by killing the bacteria that cause these infections.

This medicine contains the active ingredients amoxicillin (as trihydrate) and clavulanic acid (as potassium clavulanate). Amoxicillin belongs to the penicillin group of antibiotics. Clavulanic acid is used to increase the effectiveness of amoxicillin against certain types of bacteria.

**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.

There is no evidence that this medicine is addictive.

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

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### Before you take Curam

#### **When you must not take it**

**Do not give this medicine if you have an allergy to:**

- amoxicillin trihydrate or potassium clavulanate, the active ingredients, or to any of the other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet under Product description
- any other similar medicines (such as penicillins, cephalosporins, carbapenems, monobactams or any other types of antibiotics).

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.

If you have ever had an allergic reaction when taking an antibiotic, you should tell the doctor before this medicine is given.

**Do not take this medicine if you have previously experienced liver problems or yellowing of the skin and/or eyes, also called jaundice, after taking Curam or any other 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 be given this medicine, talk to your doctor.**

#### **Before you start taking it**

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

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

- an allergic reaction (such as a rash) to any antibiotics in the past
- glandular fever (mononucleosis) or a blood disorder
- liver or kidney problems. The dosage of Curam may need to be changed or you may need to be given an alternative medicine

- pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Your doctor will discuss with you the possible risks and benefits of using Curam during pregnancy
- breastfeeding or wish to breastfeed. Your doctor will discuss with you the possible risks and benefits of using Curam during breastfeeding.
- passing less urine
- phenylketonuria.

#### **Curam contains aspartame.**

Tell your doctor if your urine has to be tested for sugar. Curam may affect the results of these tests.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you take Curam.**

#### ***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 Curam may interfere with each other. These include:

- probenecid
- allopurinol
- warfarin or other medicines used to prevent blood clots
- birth control pills ("the pill", oral contraceptives). Birth control pills may not work as well in preventing pregnancy when Curam is used. Talk to your doctor about the need for an additional method of contraception while taking Curam.
- methotrexate, a medicine used to treat arthritis and some types of cancer
- mycophenolate mofetil, a medicine used to suppress your immune system

- other antibiotics. These may interfere with the actions of Curam.

These medicines may be affected by Curam or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of their medicines, or may need to take different 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 Curam**

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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, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

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

Take Curam as directed by your doctor or pharmacist.

The usual dose of Curam is one dose given three times a day. If the dose is for a child, it may vary depending on your child's weight.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure of the correct dose for your child.**

They will tell you exactly how much to give.

**Follow the instructions they give you.**

If you give the wrong dose, Curam may not work as well and your condition may not improve.

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

**Shake the bottle well and accurately measure the dose with a medicine measure.**

Shaking the bottle and using a medicine measure will make sure that you get the correct dose. A medicine measure is included with

the product. Make sure the whole dose is swallowed each time.

#### ***When to take Curam***

Space the doses as evenly as possible throughout the day. If you are taking Curam three times a day, give a dose about every eight hours.

Curam should be given immediately before or with the first mouthful of food. Curam works best when given this way. It may also help to prevent stomach upsets. However, this medicine will still work if given without food.

#### ***How long to take Curam***

Continue giving this medicine until the course is finished or for as long as your doctor advises. Do not stop giving this medicine just because you feel better as the infection can return.

**Do not stop giving Curam, or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.**

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

**Give the missed dose as soon as you remember, and continue to give it as you would normally. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give the next dose when you are meant to.**

**Do not give two doses within four hours of each other.**

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

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

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

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

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

**Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764766) 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 Curam. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

There are unlikely to be any serious problems following an overdose of Curam.

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## While you are taking Curam

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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 Curam.**

**Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who are treating you 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 from time to time to make sure the medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken the medicine exactly as directed.

Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not working as it should and change your treatment unnecessarily.

If you develop itching, swelling, difficulty breathing or a skin rash while taking Curam, do not take any more and tell the doctor immediately.

If you develop severe diarrhoea either while taking Curam or within several weeks after treatment, tell the

doctor as soon as possible. Do not take any medication to stop the diarrhoea (e.g. Lomotil® or Imodium®).

If you get a sore white mouth or tongue while taking or soon after stopping Curam, tell your doctor. Also tell your doctor if you get vaginal itching or discharge. This may mean that you have a fungal infection called thrush.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while you are taking Curam.

Drink plenty of water, juice or other fluids (e.g. 6 to 8 glasses per day).

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

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

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

**Do not stop giving Curam or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor. If the full course prescribed by your doctor is not completed, all of the bacteria causing the infection may not be killed. These bacteria may continue to grow and multiply so that the infection may not clear completely or it may return.**

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## Side effects

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

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if he/she gets some of the 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.**

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

- diarrhoea (several loose bowel movements per day), indigestion, pain in the stomach, feeling sick or being sick
- soreness of the mouth or tongue, abnormal taste, hairy tongue
- headache, dizziness, tiredness, hot flushes
- oral thrush (white, furry sore tongue and mouth)
- vaginal thrush (sore and itchy vagina, vaginal discharge)
- unusually active (hyperactive).

The above list includes the more common side effects of your medicine.

**Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you or your child notices any of the following:**

- nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, generally feeling unwell
- itching or burning skin
- rash
- yellowing of the skin or eyes
- dark urine or pale stools
- severe abdominal cramps or stomach cramps
- severe diarrhoea
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- symptoms such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers.

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

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

- wheezing, swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue or other parts of the body, difficulty in breathing or swallowing, hay fever, lumpy rash (hives) or fainting, joint discomfort or swelling, swollen lymph glands, nausea and

vomiting. These could be symptoms of an allergic reaction.

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

**Rare events that have been reported with Curam include:**

- inflammation of the bowel (colitis)
- inflammation of the liver or kidney
- blood disorders
- crystals in the urine (crystalluria)
- seizures
- change in colour of teeth
- change in colour of the tongue with a furry appearance
- flu like symptoms with a rash, fever, swollen glands and abnormal blood test results (including increased white blood cells (eosinophilia) and liver enzymes) (Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS)).

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

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

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## After giving Curam

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### Storage

Keep this medicine in the original container.

If you take it out of its original container it may not keep well.

Do not store Curam or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.

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

Keep the bottle in the refrigerator where the temperature stays between

2 and 8°C. Heat can destroy Curam. Do not freeze.

**Do not use any suspension left in the bottle 7 days after collecting from the pharmacy or if the expiry date has passed.**

### 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

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### What it looks like

Curam powder for suspension is available as an off-white powder, and when reconstituted with water it becomes an off-white suspension.

Available in 100 mL bottles with a measuring syringe included.

### Ingredients

Active ingredients:

Curam 125/31.25: Once reconstituted with 95 mL of water, each 5 mL of suspension contains 125 mg of amoxicillin (as trihydrate) and 31.25 mg clavulanic acid (as potassium clavulanate).

Curam 250/62.5: Once reconstituted with 90 mL of water, each 5 mL of suspension contains 250 mg of amoxicillin (as trihydrate) and 62.5 mg clavulanic acid (as potassium clavulanate). Inactive ingredients:

- lemon flavouring
- orange flavouring
- peach apricot flavouring
- citric acid anhydrous
- sodium citrate anhydrous
- aspartame
- talc-purified
- guar gum
- silicon dioxide.

This medicine does not contain sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

### Supplier

Novartis New Zealand Limited,  
PO Box 99102, Newmarket,  
Auckland 1149  
Tel: 0800 354 335

This leaflet was revised in May 2019.

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