

# New Zealand Data Sheet



## 1. PRODUCT NAME

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Flucloxin® 250 mg powder for injection  
Flucloxin® 500 mg powder for injection  
Flucloxin® 1 g powder for injection

## 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

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The flucloxacillin is present as flucloxacillin sodium monohydrate in Flucloxin.  
Each 1.088 g (1088 mg) of flucloxacillin sodium monohydrate is equivalent to approximately 1 g (1000 mg) of anhydrous flucloxacillin.

Flucloxin 250 mg powder for injection/infusion contains 250mg flucloxacillin.  
Flucloxin 500 mg powder for injection/infusion contains 500 mg flucloxacillin.  
Flucloxin 1 g powder for injection/infusion contains 1 g flucloxacillin.

### **Excipient(s) with known effect**

Flucloxin contains only flucloxacillin sodium monohydrate, with no additional ingredients.  
Each one gram of flucloxacillin sodium monohydrate contains approximately 2.2 mmol of sodium.

## 3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

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Flucloxin powder for injection vials: Glass vials containing a white powder for reconstitution.

## 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

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### **4.1. Therapeutic indications**

Flucloxin is indicated in adults and children for the following:

- The treatment of skin and soft tissue infections caused by susceptible organisms and infections due to penicillinase producing staphylococci and for mixed streptococcal and staphylococcal infections where the staphylococci are resistant to penicillin. For example, infections of the joints, respiratory tract and urinary tract, otitis media, endocarditis, septicaemia, and meningitis.
- Prophylaxis of staphylococcal infections during major surgical procedures, particularly in cardiothoracic or orthopaedic surgery.

Consideration should be given to official guidance on the appropriate use of antibacterial agents.

## **4.2. Dose and method of administration**

The dosage depends on the severity and nature of the infection.

The usual routes of administration are by intramuscular injection, slow intravenous injection and intravenous infusion. Flucloxacillin may also be administered by intra-articular or intrapleural injection.

### **Dose**

#### ***Adults***

**By intramuscular injection:** Usual dosage 250 mg every 6 hours.

**By intravenous injection or infusion:** Usual dosage 250 mg to 1 g every 6 hours.

**By intrapleural injection:** Usual dosage 250 mg once daily.

**By intra-articular injection:** Usual dosage 250 mg to 500 mg once daily

#### ***Special populations***

##### **Paediatric population**

Children up to 2 years of age: One quarter of the adult dose.

Children 2 years to 10 years: Half the adult dose.

##### **Elderly population/Renal impairment**

Dosage reduction is not usually required but is required in severe renal failure, creatinine clearance less than 10ml/min. In those instances, a reduction in dose or extension of dose is required.

##### **Hepatic impairment**

Adjustment of dosage may not be necessary as flucloxacillin is not metabolised in the liver to any appreciable extent. However, during prolonged treatment it is advisable to check periodically for hepatic dysfunction (see **Section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for Use**).

##### **Method of Administration**

For instructions on reconstitution of the medicinal product before administration, see section 6.6.

Flucloxacillin may be administered either by slow intravenous injection over a period of 3 to 4 minutes directly into a vein or injected, suitably diluted, into the drip tube.

## **4.3. Contraindications**

Flucloxacillin is contraindicated in patients who have had previous experience of a major allergy or anaphylaxis to a cephalosporin or penicillin.

Flucloxin is contraindicated in patients with a previous history of flucloxacillin-associated jaundice/hepatic dysfunction.

Flucloxin is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

Use in the eye.

#### **4.4. Special warnings and precautions for use**

##### **Hepatic Toxicity**

Flucloxacillin can cause severe hepatitis and cholestatic jaundice, which may be protracted. This reaction is more frequent in older patients and those who take the drug for prolonged periods (see Section 4.8 Undesirable Effects).

##### **Anaphylaxis**

Flucloxin should be given with caution to patients who have experienced symptoms of allergy associated with a cephalosporin or penicillin. Serious and occasionally fatal hypersensitivity (anaphylactoid) reactions have been reported in patients receiving beta-lactam antibiotics (e.g. penicillins). Anaphylaxis is more frequent following parenteral therapy.

Before commencing therapy with any penicillin, careful enquiry should be made concerning previous hypersensitivity reactions to penicillins, cephalosporins or other allergens. If an allergic reaction occurs; appropriate therapy should be instituted and Flucloxin therapy discontinued.

Serious anaphylactoid reactions require emergency treatment with adrenaline, oxygen, and intravenous steroids. Airway management including intubation, should also be administered as indicated.

As with any potent medicine, periodic assessment of renal, hepatic and haematopoietic function should be made during prolonged therapy. The possibility of superinfections with mycotic or bacterial pathogens should be kept in mind during therapy. If superinfections occur (usually involving *Aerobacter*, *Pseudomonas* or *Candida*), the medicine should be discontinued and/or appropriate therapy instituted.

##### **Severe cutaneous adverse reactions**

Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCAR), such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), and acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) have been reported in patients taking beta-lactam antibiotics. When SCAR is suspected, Flucloxin should be discontinued immediately and an alternative treatment should be considered.

The occurrence at the treatment initiation of a feverish generalised erythema associated with pustula may be a symptom of acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP). In case of AGEP diagnosis, flucloxacillin should be discontinued and any subsequent administration of flucloxacillin contraindicated (See Section 4.8).

#### **Use in hepatic impairment**

Flucloxin should be used with caution in patients with evidence of hepatic dysfunction even though the latter is not a recognised predisposing factor to hepatic reactions to the drug.

Prolonged use of flucloxacillin may occasionally result in an overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms or yeast and patients should be observed carefully for superinfections.

Hepatitis, predominantly of the cholestatic type has been reported (see **Section 4.8 Undesirable Effects**) to be associated with Flucloxin therapy. Reports have been more frequent with increasing age (particularly over 55 years of age) or following prolonged treatment (more than 14 days). Jaundice may first appear several weeks after therapy: in some cases the course of the reactions has been protracted and lasted for several months. Resolution has occurred with time in most cases. In rare cases, patients have died of hepatitis associated with flucloxacillin nearly always in patients with serious underlying disease or receiving concomitant medication.

#### **Use in renal impairment**

The dose or dose interval may need modification in patients with renal failure as the half life in patients with renal failure is increased. As renal function is not fully developed in the neonate the risk/benefit ratio should be considered before administration to such patients.

Caution should be exercised in the treatment of patients with an allergic diathesis.

Very high doses of flucloxacillin can cause hypokalaemia and sometimes hypernatraemia. In patients undergoing high-dose treatment for more than 5 days, electrolyte balance, blood counts, and renal function should be monitored. Additionally, use of a potassium-sparing diuretic may be helpful.

#### **Paediatric Use**

Animal studies show that high doses of flucloxacillin reduce albumin-bound bilirubin to 50 to 70% of the base line concentration. Special caution is essential in neonates and premature infants because of the risk of hyperbilirubinemia. Flucloxin could potentially result in the reduction of albumin-bound bilirubin.

#### **Pseudomembranous Colitis**

Antibiotic associated pseudomembranous colitis has been reported with many antibiotics including flucloxacillin. A toxin produced by *Clostridium difficile* appears to be the primary cause. The severity of the colitis may range from mild to life threatening. It is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who develop diarrhoea or colitis in association with antibiotic use (this may occur up to several weeks after cessation of antibiotic therapy). Mild cases usually respond to drug discontinuation alone. However in moderate to severe cases, appropriate therapy with a

suitable oral antibacterial agent effective against *Clostridium difficile* should be considered. Fluids, electrolytes and protein replacement should be provided when indicated. Drugs which delay peristalsis, e.g. opiates and diphenoxylate with atropine (Lomotil) may prolong and/or worsen the condition and should not be used. Diarrhoea may also occur after the cessation of therapy.

#### **High anion gap metabolic acidosis**

Caution is advised when flucloxacillin is administered concomitantly with paracetamol due to the increased risk of high anion gap metabolic acidosis (HAGMA). Patients at high risk for HAGMA are in particular those with severe renal impairment, sepsis or malnutrition especially if the maximum daily doses of paracetamol are used.

After co-administration of flucloxacillin and paracetamol, a close monitoring is recommended in order to detect the appearance of acid–base disorders, namely HAGMA, including the search of urinary 5-oxoproline.

If flucloxacillin is continued after cessation of paracetamol, it is advisable to ensure that there are no signals of HAGMA, as there is a possibility of flucloxacillin maintaining the clinical picture of HAGMA (see section 4.5 Interactions with other medicines).

#### **Use in the elderly**

See Hepatitis

#### **Effects on laboratory tests**

No data available.

### **4.5. Interaction with other medicines and other forms of interaction**

#### **Aminoglycosides**

It is recommended that flucloxacillin sodium for injection and aminoglycosides are not mixed together in the same solution for injection, due to possible precipitation and the gradual inactivation of the aminoglycosides under these circumstances (See section 6.2 Incompatibilities).

#### **Blood Products and Proteinases**

Flucloxacillin sodium for injections should not be mixed with blood products or other proteinase fluids (e.g. protein hydrolysates).

#### **Oestrogen Containing Oral Contraceptives**

The efficacy of oral contraceptives may be impaired under concomitant administration of Flucloxin, which may result in unwanted pregnancy. Women taking oral contraceptives should be aware of this and should be informed about alternative methods of contraception.

## **Methotrexate**

Penicillins reduce the excretion of methotrexate thereby increasing the risk of methotrexate toxicity.

## **Interference with diagnostic tests**

Penicillins may interfere with:

- Urinary glucose test
- Coomb's tests
- Tests for urinary or serum proteins
- Tests which use bacteria e.g. Guthrie test.

## **Probenecid**

Probenecid decreases the renal tubular secretion of penicillins when used concurrently, resulting in increased and more prolonged flucloxacillin serum concentrations and prolonged elimination half-life.

## **Bacteriostatic Antibiotics**

Since bacteriostatic agents such as Chloramphenicol, Erythromycin, Sulfonamides or Tetracyclines may interfere with the bactericidal effect of penicillins in the treatment of meningitis or other situations where a rapid bactericidal effect is necessary, it is best to avoid concurrent therapy.

## **Paracetamol**

Caution should be taken when flucloxacillin is used concomitantly with paracetamol as concurrent intake has been associated with high anion gap metabolic acidosis, especially in patients with risk factors (see section 4.4. Special warnings and precautions for Use)

## **Posaconazole and Voriconazole**

Flucloxacillin (a CYP450 inducer) has been reported to significantly decrease plasma posaconazole and voriconazole concentrations. If concomitant administration of flucloxacillin with either posaconazole or voriconazole cannot be avoided, monitor for potential loss of posaconazole or voriconazole effectiveness (e.g. by therapeutic drug monitoring); increasing the dose of posaconazole or voriconazole may be needed.

## **4.6. Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

### **Pregnancy**

Australian Pregnancy Category: B1

Category B1: Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human foetus having been observed. Studies in animals have not shown evidence of an increased occurrence of foetal damage.

The safety of Flucloxacillin in the first trimester of pregnancy has not been established. Use in the second and third trimester of pregnancy has shown no significant risk to the neonate.

Studies in animals have not shown evidence of foetal damage. Pregnant women should be treated only if the expected benefit outweighs the possible risks to the pregnant woman and foetus.

### **Breast-feeding**

Flucloxacillin is excreted into breast milk in trace amounts. An alternative feeding method is recommended to avoid any possible sensitisation of the newborn.

### **Fertility**

There are no data available on fertility.

#### **4.7. Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

During treatment with Flucloxacillin Injection, undesirable effects may occur (e.g. allergic reactions, dizziness and convulsions) which may influence the ability to drive and use machines. Patients should be cautious when driving or operating machinery.

#### **4.8. Undesirable effects**

As with other penicillins, it may be expected that untoward reactions will be essentially limited to sensitivity phenomena.

They are more likely to occur in individuals who have previously demonstrated hypersensitivity to penicillins. Anaphylactic shock is most likely to occur with injected penicillins.

The following adverse reactions have been reported as associated with the use of flucloxacillin.

**Blood and lymphatic disorders:** Haemolytic anaemia has been reported during therapy with flucloxacillin. Reactions such as anaemia, thrombocytopenia, thrombocytopenic purpura, eosinophilia, leucopenia and agranulocytosis have been reported during therapy with other penicillins. These reactions are usually reversible on discontinuation of therapy and are believed to be hypersensitivity phenomena.

**Immune system disorders:** Erythematous maculopapular rashes, urticaria, purpura, eosinophilia, angioneurotic oedema, erythema nodosum, and cutaneous vasculitis. Anaphylaxis and erythema multiforme have been reported rarely. Certain reactions (fever, arthralgia and myalgia) sometimes develop more than 48 hours after the start of treatment. Whenever such reactions occur, the administration of Flucloxacillin should be discontinued. (Note: urticaria, other skin rashes and serum sickness-like reactions may be controlled with antihistamines and, if necessary, systemic corticosteroids).

Gastrointestinal disorders: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, constipation, abdominal pain, heart burn and loss of appetite. As with other antibiotics, pseudomembranous colitis has been reported rarely (see **Section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for Use**).

Hepatobiliary disorders: A moderate rise in SGOT and cholestasis have been reported. Hepatitis and cholestatic jaundice (sometimes severe) with a frequency of about 1 in 15,000 exposures have been reported (see **Section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for Use**).

These reactions are related neither to the dose nor to the route of administration. The onset of these effects may be delayed for up to two months post treatment. Hepatic events may be severe and in very rare circumstances (patients over 50 years of age with serious underlying disease) a fatal outcome had been reported.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: Erythematous maculopapular rashes, urticaria, erythema multiforme, cutaneous vasculitis. Whenever such reactions occur, Flucloxacillin should be discontinued.

Severe cutaneous adverse reactions, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), and acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP), a red, scaly rash with bumps under the skin and blisters, have been reported in patients taking beta-lactam antibiotics.

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders: Arthralgia and myalgia sometimes develop more than 48 hours after the start of treatment.

Renal and Urinary disorders: Isolated cases of nephritis, interstitial nephritis. This is reversible when treatment is discontinued. Frequency of micturition and haematuria.

General disorders and administration site conditions: Fever sometimes develops more than 48 hours after the start of the treatment. Pain may be experienced at the site of intramuscular injection and phlebitis at the site of intravenous injection.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: Post marketing experience: very rare cases of high anion gap metabolic acidosis, when flucloxacillin is used concomitantly with paracetamol, generally in the presence of risk factors (see section 4.4).

Nervous system disorders: Adverse effects have been reported rarely. They include dizziness and convulsions. Convulsions may occur in patients with impaired renal function or in those receiving high doses. As the blood brain barrier becomes more permeable in meningitis, toxic symptoms may be precipitated by lower levels of flucloxacillin in patients with meningitis.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: Bronchospasm.

Other: Malaise, bad taste, sore throat, sore tongue, pruritus vulvae, arthralgia, dizziness, depression and headache. Vaginal or oral moniliasis may occur following the use of antibiotics.

## **Reporting of suspected adverse reactions**

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicine is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicine. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected reactions <https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/reporting/>

### **4.9. Overdose**

#### **Symptoms**

With high parenteral doses of penicillins, neurotoxicity (e.g. convulsions, encephalopathy), blood disorders (e.g. neutropenia, haemolytic anaemia, prolongation of bleeding time, defective platelet function) or electrolyte disturbances may occur. As the blood brain barrier becomes more permeable in meningitis, toxic symptoms may be precipitated by lower levels of flucloxacillin in patients with meningitis.

#### **Treatment**

Treatment is symptomatic. Flucloxin is not removed from the circulation by haemodialysis.

For advice on the management of overdose please contact the National Poisons Centre on 0800 POISON (0800 764766).

## **5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

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### **5.1. Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: BETA-LACTAM ANTIBACTERIALS, PENICILLINS- Beta-lactamase resistant penicillins, ATC code: J01CF05

#### **Mechanism of action**

Flucloxin is semi-synthetic penicillin with a narrow spectrum of bactericidal activity directed primarily against gram positive bacteria. Its mechanism of action is similar to that of benzyl penicillin in that it inhibits formation of the cell wall in susceptible species. Flucloxin is resistant to hydrolysis by acid and penicillinase.

### **5.2. Pharmacokinetic properties**

#### **Absorption**

Flucloxin is well absorbed after an intramuscular administration. Peak serum concentrations after intramuscular administration of 250 mg-1 g may range from 5-15 mcg/mL after 30 minutes. Therapeutic concentrations persist for about 4 hours.

#### **Distribution**

Once absorbed, about 95% of Flucloxin in the circulation is bound to plasma protein. Flucloxin

crosses the placental barrier and is excreted in breast milk, see section 4.6.

### **Biotransformation**

Flucloxin is metabolised to a limited extent.

### **Elimination**

The unchanged drug and metabolites are excreted by the kidneys by both tubular secretion and glomerular filtration. Approximately 90% of an intramuscular dose is excreted in the urine within 6 hours. The elimination half-life is short and variable having been measured in different studies between 0.5 – 1.5 h. The half-life is extended in neonates.

### ***Special populations***

#### **Renal impairment**

Elimination of Flucloxin is decreased in renal failure (see section 4.4).

### **5.3. Preclinical safety data**

There are no pre-clinical data of relevance to the prescriber which are additional to those included in other sections.

## **6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

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### **6.1. List of excipients**

None.

### **6.2. Incompatibilities**

This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products except those mentioned in section 6.6.

Flucloxin should not be mixed with blood products, other proteinaceous fluids such as protein hydrolysates or with intravenous lipid emulsions.

Flucloxin may be used in combination with other antibiotics, particularly ampicillin, to produce a wider spectrum of activity. However, if prescribed concomitantly with an aminoglycoside, the antibiotics should not be mixed in the syringe, intravenous fluid container or giving set because of loss of activity of the aminoglycoside under these conditions.

### **6.3. Shelf life**

Un-reconstituted dry powder Injection Vials 36 months

Reconstituted Flucloxin injection in water or other compatible infusion fluid (see section 6.6) is

stable for at least 72 hours when stored at 5°C or for a period not exceeding 1 hour at room temperature. However, microbiological point of view must be considered, and the injection should be prepared immediately before use and any unused solution discarded.

#### **6.4. Special precautions for storage**

Store the unprepared Flucloxin Vials in a cool, dry place protected from light.  
Store at or below 25°C.

#### **6.5. Nature and contents of container**

Flucloxin is supplied in glass vials containing 250mg or 500mg or 1 g of flucloxacillin for injection in packs of 5 or 10 vials.

Not all strengths or pack sizes may be marketed.

#### **6.6. Special precautions for disposal and other handling**

All prepared solutions should be checked for absence of particulate matter before use. Since the dry powder in a vial displaces a set volume once it is in solution, this must be allowed for by calculating the volume of diluent to be added to ensure the correct dose is given.

250 mg of stated activity displaces 0.2 mL of diluent.

500 mg of stated activity displaces 0.4 mL of diluent.

1 g of stated activity displaces 0.8 mL of diluent.

### **Preparation**

#### ***Intravenous injection***

Reconstitute 250 mg to 500 mg in 10 ml of water for injection

Reconstitute 1 g in 15 ml to 20 ml of water for injection

#### ***Intravenous infusion***

Compatible infusion fluid: Flucloxin injection is compatible with the following infusion fluids for a period not exceeding 1 hour at room temperature: Dextrose 5%, Dextrose/Saline, Hartman's Ringers, 0.9% sodium chloride, dextrans.

#### ***Intramuscular injection***

Reconstitute 250 mg in 1.5 ml of water for injection

Reconstitute 500 mg in 2 ml of water for injection

Reconstitute 1 g in 2.5 ml of water for injection

#### ***Intrapleural***

Reconstitute 250 mg in 5 to 10 ml of water for injection.

### ***Intra-articular***

Reconstitute 250 mg to 500 mg in up to 5 ml of water for injection or in 0.5% lignocaine hydrochloride solution.

## **7. MEDICINE SCHEDULE**

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Prescription medicine

## **8. SPONSOR**

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Douglas Pharmaceuticals Ltd  
P O Box 45 027  
Auckland 0651  
New Zealand  
Phone: (09) 835 0660

## **9. DATE OF FIRST APPROVAL**

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17 August 1983

## **10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

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08 August 2023

Summary table of changes

<b>Section Changed</b>	<b>Summary of new information</b>
All	Formatting and editorial changes; addition of subsection titles.
4.2	Added section on hepatic impairment
4.3	Added contraindication to use in the eye
4.4	Added boxed warning concerning Hepatic Toxicity; Added treatment of serious anaphylactoid reactions; warning on use in renal impairment; Pseudomembranous colitis; Additional information concerning paediatric use. Additional information on superinfections.
4.5	Interaction with aminoglycosides; Interaction with Posaconazole and voriconazole. Added Aminoglycosides.
4.6	Added Pregnancy Category B1 information. Breast-feeding section amended.

4.8	Addition of haemolytic anaemia; addition of further information on Immune system disorders; addition of further information on gastrointestinal disorders; addition of frequency of hepatitis and cholestatic jaundice added; addition of acute generalized exanthematosus pustulosis; added "frequency of micturition and haematuria"; added pain at injection site; added information on nervous system disorders, respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders and others. Added statement about anaphylactic shock being more likely to occur with injected penicillins.
4.9	Added statement: "As the blood brain barrier becomes more permeable in meningitis, toxic symptoms may be precipitated by lower levels of flucloxacillin in patients with meningitis".