

MEDICATION INFORMATION FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

Carbamazepine

(Brand Names: Tegretol, others)

Dosing Instructions: _____

What is this medicine for?

- used to prevent or treat seizures (convulsions)
- used to prevent some types of pain

How should I give my child this medicine?

- Give only the amount prescribed by your child's doctor. This medicine should only be given to the patient for whom it is prescribed. Do not stop giving your child carbamazepine unless told to do so by your child's doctor. Give carbamazepine at the same time every day.
- If giving your child a liquid, shake the bottle well and carefully measure each dose with an oral syringe, dropper, or medicine spoon.
- If giving your child controlled-release (long-acting) tablets, do not crush them or allow your child to chew them.
- Carbamazepine can be given with food or milk to prevent stomach upset.

How should this medicine be stored?

- Keep medicine in its original bottle and out of the reach of children.
- Store in a cool, dry place away from sunlight.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

- Give the dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, do not give the missed dose. Do not give a double dose. If two or more doses are missed, contact your child's doctor.

What precautions or special instructions should I know about?

- Keep all appointments with your child's doctor. Your child will need to have blood samples taken to adjust the dose and make sure that carbamazepine is not causing serious side effects.
- Do not give your child any other medicines, including over-the-counter medicines, until you have checked with your child's doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine may make your child drowsy. Watch carefully if your child is performing a task requiring alertness, such as climbing stairs.
- Carbamazepine may make your child's skin more sensitive to the sun. Dress your child in protective clothing and apply a lotion with sunscreen.
- It may be helpful to keep a record of your child's seizures, behavior, and school performance to help identify the best dose for your child.

What are the common side effects of this medicine?

- dizziness, lightheadedness, drowsiness, irritability, blurred vision
- dry mouth (in older children, use hard candy or ice chips to keep the mouth moist)
- nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, diarrhea or constipation

Stop giving your child this medicine and call your child's doctor immediately if:

- Any of the common side effects listed above become severe.
- Your child has any of these reactions:
 - lack of coordination, abnormal movements
 - difficulty seeing or talking
 - fever, sore throat, mouth sores
 - unusual bruising or bleeding
 - rash or purple spots on skin
 - yellowing of eyes or skin
 - palpitations or a fast heartbeat
 - a change in seizure pattern

Notes and Special Instructions:

This medication information sheet is a summary and intended for information purposes only. If you have any other questions, please ask your child's doctor or pharmacist.
