

## MEDICATION INFORMATION FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

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### Methylphenidate

(Brand Names: Ritalin, others)

Dosing Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### What is this medicine for?

- used in the treatment of children with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder
- used to treat narcolepsy

#### How should I give my child this medicine?

- Give this medicine on a regular schedule as 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 methylphenidate unless told to do so by your child’s doctor.
- If giving controlled-release (long-acting) tablets, do not allow your child to chew or crush them.

#### How should this medicine be stored?

- Keep medicine in its original bottle.
- Keep all medicine 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.

#### What precautions or special instructions should I know about?

- Do not give your child any other medicines, including over-the-counter medicines, until you have checked with your child’s doctor or pharmacist.
- Your child’s prescription is not refillable. Your child’s doctor will need to give your child a new prescription each time.
- This medicine may make your child dizzy. Watch carefully if your child is performing a task requiring alertness, such as climbing stairs. The dizziness should decrease as your child continues to take methylphenidate.
- Methylphenidate may increase the frequency of seizures in children with seizure disorders. If your child has a seizure disorder, discuss the benefits and risks of using methylphenidate with your child’s doctor.

#### What are the common side effects of this medicine?

- nervousness
- difficulty sleeping
- change in appetite

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

- Your child has any of these reactions:
  - skin rash
  - excessive dizziness or drowsiness
  - palpitations or a fast heartbeat
  - fever, sore throat
  - unusual bruising or bleeding
  - tics or worsening of tics

#### Notes and Special Instructions:

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**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.**

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