

Information about Carbamazepine



This is an easy way to say.....Car-ba-maz-eh-peen

What is Carbamazepine?



Carbamazepine is a medication that will help stop your seizures if you have epilepsy.

Carbamazepine can also help you with problems with your mood.

Carbamazepine can sometimes be called different names like

- **Tegretol**
- **Epimaz**
- **Carbagen**

It is important to carry on taking medication with the same name.

Carbamazepine can be taken as tablets or liquid medicine.

Where do I get Carbamazepine?



You can only get this medication with a prescription

The doctor or consultant:

- Will ask you questions about your health.
- May also check your blood pressure.
- May check your weight.
- Will ask you if you are taking other medication.
- Will tell you when you need to have a blood test.
- Will tell you when you need to have an
electrocardiograph

An electrocardiograph is a test to check your heart

How do I take Carbamazepine?



The doctor will talk to you about how much Carbamazepine you need to take.

The doctor will tell you how to take your Carbamazepine.



You need to take Carbamazepine for some time so that it works best.

You will usually take Carbamazepine in the morning and in the evening or sometimes once a day



If you forget to take your medication you must tell your carer and ask your doctor for advice.



You should not stop taking your medication suddenly as this could make you feel unwell



What is good about Carbamazepine?



Carbamazepine can help if you have epilepsy and lots of seizures

Carbamazepine can help reduce problems with your mood.

Carbamazepine also helps you to feel less angry or tense.



What is not good about Carbamazepine?



There are some health problems that people can get when they take Carbamazepine

These problems are called side effects but not everyone gets them.

- Problems with your eyesight
- Feeling very tired
- Headache
- Feeling sick and pain in stomach
- Feeling unsteady on your feet
- Feel hungry and put on weight

You will need to speak to your doctor if you:

- Have a rash on your skin
- Feel more thirsty than usual
- Feel unwell
- Bruise or bleed easily
- Have a sore throat
- Have a high temperature

What other things do I need to talk to the doctor about?



You should also talk to your doctor if

- You are worried about your medication
- You want to know how much alcohol is safe to drink when taking medication
- You are taking contraceptive tablets
- You are planning to have a baby

The information in this easy read leaflet should always be discussed with the service user and it should not be provided without support.

The full information sheet about Carbamazepine medication should also be given to the service user, carers and staff.

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