



## MEDICINE TO TREAT: URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

Nitrofurantoin

### 1. What is the medicine used for?

Nitrofurantoin is an antibiotic used to treat infections of the urinary tract caused by certain bacteria.

### 2. How should I take these medicines?

- Take nitrofurantoin with or after food
- You should complete each course of antibiotics even if you feel better as incomplete treatment might cause the infection to return or cause antibiotic resistance. When antibiotic resistance happens, the antibiotic will not be able to control the growth or kill the bacteria anymore.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Do not double your dose or use extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

### 3. What are the possible side effects of the medicines?

The common side effects of this medicine include:

- Nausea or vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Constipation
- Diarrhoea.
- Nitrofurantoin may also cause your urine to turn dark yellow or brown in colour.

If you experience any of the following rare but serious side effects, stop taking the medicine and inform your doctor immediately:

- Yellowing of the skin and eyes, dark urine or light coloured stools, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite and stomach pain
- Difficulty breathing, fever, chills, chest pain and cough
- Serious skin rash that looks red, swollen, blistered or peeling
- Very sensitive to touch, sharp pain, numbness or having a tingling feeling in your feet or hands

#### **4. How do I know if I am allergic to these medicines?**

The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following:

- Swollen face/eyes/lips
- Difficulty in breathing
- Itchy skin rashes over your whole body

If you experience any of these symptoms, you should stop your medicine immediately and see your doctor.

#### **5. What precautions should I follow when taking these medicines?**

Before starting on this medicine, inform your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- Are Glucose-6-Phosphate-Dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficient
- Have liver problems
- Have kidney problems
- Are currently breastfeeding an infant who is G6PD deficient
- Are more than 38 weeks pregnant
- Are taking magnesium trisilicate, a medicine used for gastric discomfort

This medicine can affect the levels of other medicines in your body. Do let your doctor know what other medicines, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal products you are taking before starting on your antibiotic.

#### **6. How do I store the medicines?**

- Keep your medicines in the original container or packaging, tightly closed or sealed in a cool and dry place, away from direct sunlight.
- Keep the medicine out of reach of children.
- Throw away all expired medicines

This leaflet answers some common questions about this medicine. It does not contain all the available information. It also does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist