

Medication Information Card

Warfarin (War – far – in)

Other names for this medication

Coumadin[®]

There are many other names for this medication.

How this medication is used

This medication works by slowing down the clotting of your blood. It is used to prevent or treat blood clots in the heart, lungs or blood vessels.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. Take this medication at the same time each day. Check the dose and make sure you take the correct number of tablets each time.

If you miss a dose by less than 12 hours, take it right away. Then go back to your regular dosing time. For example, if you miss a dose at 6:00 p.m., you may take the missed dose the next morning. Then take your regular dose that day at 6:00 p.m.

If you miss a dose by more than 12 hours, contact your health care provider.

Do not take 2 doses at one time to catch up.

You will have regular blood tests while taking this medication. The dose of warfarin may change based on the result of your INR blood test.

Tell all doctors, dentists and health care providers you see that you are taking warfarin, before they make any changes in your care or medications.

How to take this medication (continued)

Tell your doctors, pharmacist and health care providers about all the medications you take, even the ones you buy without a prescription.

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new medication, vitamins, topical products and herbal or natural products.

Do not take this medication if you are pregnant. Talk to your doctor if you may be pregnant or are planning to get pregnant.

If you have any major bleeding, acute abdominal pain or head pain, go to the nearest Emergency Department and tell the staff you are taking warfarin.

Carry a Medic-Alert[®] identification if you are taking warfarin long-term.

The effects of this medication can be changed by many things.

While taking this medication you may need to

- avoid alcohol such as wine, beer and liquor
- avoid contact sports
- avoid garlic pills
- let your doctor know about any changes in your diet or lifestyle and any new medical conditions
- use caution when shaving - an electric razor is best
- use a soft-bristled tooth brush

Contact your doctor if you notice

- diarrhea or vomiting
- joint pain or swelling
- signs of bleeding such as easy bruising, nosebleeds, black and tarry or bloody stools, blood in urine
- signs of infection such as sore throat, fever, chills
- shortness of breath or chest pain