

# Medication Information

## Phenytoin (Fen – ee – to – in)

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### Other names for this medication

Dilantin<sup>®</sup>

Dilantin Infatabs<sup>®</sup>

Dilantin Suspension<sup>®</sup>

### How this medication is used

This medication is used to control or prevent seizures.

### How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. It must be taken regularly, even if you feel well.

If you miss a dose of the medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

It is important that you see your doctor regularly while taking this medication. Do not stop taking this medication without checking with your doctor first.

Tell all of your doctors that you are taking phenytoin.

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

## How to take this medication (continued)

You may need to take Vitamin D while on this medication. Talk to your health care provider.

You may need to take Folic Acid while on this medication. Talk to your health care provider.

Talk to your health care provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Also talk about if you intend to breastfeed. This medication can harm your baby.

To avoid stomach upset, take this medication with a meal or snack.

This medication will prevent oral contraceptives (birth control pills) to not work properly. To avoid unwanted pregnancy, talk to your doctor about using another form of birth control.

**Capsules:** The capsules should be swallowed whole with a glass of water or other liquid.

**Chewable Tablets:** Crush, chew or swallow tablets whole.

**Liquid:** Shake the bottle well before pouring each dose. Ask your pharmacist how to accurately measure this medication.

## While taking this medication you may notice

- drowsiness
- dizziness
- nausea and vomiting
- an increase in hair growth of your face or body
- an increase in gum growth around your teeth

This medication increases the effect of alcohol making you more sleepy, dizzy and lightheaded. Do not drink alcohol such as wine, beer or liquor while on this medication.

## **While taking this medication you may notice (continued)**

To avoid feeling dizzy get up slowly when you have been sitting or lying down. If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you are no longer dizzy, then get up slowly.

Until you know how this medication affects you, do not drive or operate machinery.

Contact your dentist if your gums become enlarged.

## **Contact your health care provider if you notice**

- muscle weakness or extreme tiredness
- a change in coordination
- slurred speech
- confusion
- mood or mental changes
- increased frequency of seizures
- you are very nervous, excited or irritable
- bleeding, tender or enlarged gums
- fever or sore throat
- skin rash