

Medication Information

Sulfamethoxazole-Trimethoprim

(Sul – fa – meth – OKS – a – zole Trye – METH – oh - prim)

Other names for this medication

Bactrim[®], Septra[®], Cotrimoxazole[®], Trisulfa[®], Protrin DF[®],
SMX-TMP[®]

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed. It must be taken regularly, until you have none left, even if you feel well.

If you stop taking this antibiotic too early, it may not cure your infection.

Tell your health care provider, including your pharmacist, about any other medications, natural or herbal products, that you take – even the ones you buy without a prescription.

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

Tablets: Take with or without food, with a full glass of water.

Oral solution: Shake the oral liquid for at least 15 seconds before measuring and taking each dose. Store at room temperature, and can be used for 14 days after being mixed by the pharmacist.

While taking this medication you may notice:

- nausea
- upset stomach
- diarrhea
- headache
- rash and/or itchiness

Contact your health care provider or go to the emergency department if you notice:

- severe abdominal pain
- severe diarrhea
- no improvement or worsening of your infection
- a temperature higher than 38°C (100.4°F)
- severe confusion or drowsiness
- severe skin rash or hives
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- swelling of hands, face, throat, tongue or lips
- seizures or convulsions
- changes in the amount of urine produced

This medication information handout does not list all possible unwanted effects. Keep track of changes after you start taking this medication and report any unwanted effects to your health care provider.

Your health care provider may ask you to get some bloodwork done regularly (including checking your electrolytes and kidney function) while on this antibiotic. This is to monitor for kidney toxicity. **Please make sure you have a lab requisition for this test.**

Common medications that interact with sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim

Use caution with these medications while taking sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim.

If you take	Examples	What to do ...
Heart medications	ramipril, perindopril, telmisartan, candesartan, spironolactone, digoxin	Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim may increase abnormalities in your bloodwork. You may need to have bloodwork done more often.
Diabetes medications	glyburide, glipizide, repaglinide	Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim may lower blood sugar (glucose). You may need to have your blood glucose taken more often.
Immunosuppressing medications	cyclosporine, methotrexate	Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim may change the levels of these medications in your blood. You may need to have bloodwork done more often.
Anti-seizure medications	phenytoin	Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim may change the level of the anti-seizure medications in your blood. You may need to have bloodwork done more often.
Vitamin K antagonists	warfarin	Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim may change the way warfarin is broken down by your body. You may need to get your INR checked more often.

Speak to your pharmacist or health care provider if you take any of the above.

Pregnancy: Avoid sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim for the first 4 months of pregnancy and in the last trimester of pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

Breastfeeding: A small amount of sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim passes into breast milk. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

Children: Do not use sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim in infants under 2 months of age.