

# Information sheet for Patients taking Gabapentin For Prevention of Migraine

## What is gabapentin?

Gabapentin belongs to a group of medicines used to treat epilepsy and some types of nerve pain. It has been used to prevent migraine, by reducing the number of attacks. Gabapentin should not be used as a pain-killer during an attack.

## Is gabapentin licensed?

Gabapentin is not licensed in the UK for the prevention of migraine. However, it is licensed to treat epilepsy and some types of nerve pain and headache specialists use it for the prevention of migraine. It is recommended when licensed migraine medications are inappropriate or have been unsuccessful.

## What is the dose of gabapentin?

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Midday</b>	<b>Evening</b>
Day 1-2	300mg		
Day 3-4	300mg		300mg
Day 5-6	300mg	300mg	300mg
Day 7-8	600mg	300mg	300mg
Day 9-10	600mg	300mg	600mg
Day 11	600mg	600mg	600mg

## Does gabapentin have any side-effects?

Like all medicines, gabapentin can sometimes cause side-effects in some people, particularly when you first start taking it. The most common side effects include dizziness, drowsiness and tiredness. You should not drive, operate complex machinery or engage in other potentially hazardous activities until you know whether this medication affects your ability to perform these activities.

Do not stop taking gabapentin unless your doctor tells you to. If your treatment is stopped it should be done gradually.

## Who cannot take gabapentin?

You must not take gabapentin:

- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to gabapentin or any of the other ingredients of gabapentin

You should take special care with gabapentin:

- if you suffer from kidney problems
- if you develop signs such as persistent stomach pain, feeling sick and being sick contact your doctor immediately

## Pregnancy and breast-feeding:

You should not take gabapentin if you are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding.

This leaflet is intended to provide a brief overview of aspects of this treatment protocol. It is not intended as a substitute for the comprehensive 'product information' leaflet found inside all boxes of medication. The 'product information' leaflet should always be read before taking medication. **Your prescribing doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of the medication as it relates to you and answer any further questions you may have.**