

## EPILEPSY MEDICATION

This chart is designed to help people with epilepsy (seizure disorders) become more familiar with the medications they are taking. It is not designed for use by health or other professionals to identify drugs. Other drugs not listed here may also be prescribed to prevent seizures.

The pictures are of brand name drugs as of the printing date. However, drugs may change in appearance from time to time. Generic versions of these drugs (listed under the brand name) will look different from the brand name drugs.

The list of side effects is not complete because of space limitations. For a complete list, consult your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. More detailed sources of information on side effects include the drug's prescribing information sheet, or the Physician's Desk Reference.

Any change in physical or mental health in someone taking these medications should be reported promptly to the doctor. Safety in pregnancy has not been established for any of these medications. Questions about their use in pregnancy should be discussed with the doctor.

## TAKING CONTROL

There are several important things people with epilepsy can do to give their treatment the best chance of success.

- Do take your medication regularly.
- Do learn about your medication. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about the medication and possible side effects. If you obtain information from other sources, such as friends or the Internet that causes you concern, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

- Do not change the dose without consulting your doctor. Too much medication may lead to side effects. Too little medication may increase your seizures.
- Be honest. If you have been missing doses or having side effects, say so. If you are not honest with your doctor, he or she cannot properly help you.
- Do not ever stop your medication abruptly. This can result in a dramatic increase in your seizures, which can be dangerous to you.
- Do ask your doctor what to do if you miss a dose of medication. Do not assume if you miss a few doses that you can make them up by taking them all at once, or when you feel a seizure coming on. What you need is a certain amount of medication, taken regularly, to keep a constant level of medication in your blood.
- Do not try other people's pills, even if a friend says they are working well for her. Instead, get the name of the medication and ask your doctor if it might be right for you.
- Never mix large amounts of alcohol with medication. Ask your doctor if it would be safe for you to consume small amounts of alcoholic beverages.
- Be cautious when starting a new medication or making a major change in dose. Do not drive until you know how the new drug or different dose will affect you. It may make you drowsy.
- Give your memory some help if you have trouble remembering to take your medication. Reminders include daily or weekly pill boxes, watches with alarms, notes where you can see them, and computer calendar reminders. It may be helpful to take your medication at the same time you regularly perform other daily tasks, such as brushing your teeth, after meals or before bedtime.

- Do not run out of medication. Set up a schedule for reordering so it becomes automatic. Request refills several days in advance. If ordering medication by mail, leave enough time for delays in delivery.
- Take enough medication with you when going on vacation to last until you return. Carry a separate copy of your prescription and the phone number of your doctor so you can easily replace any medicine that gets lost. Do not keep pills in checked baggage when traveling by plane. Take them with you.
- Keep all medications out of reach of young children. Keep medication in the drug store bottle with a childproof cap and label on it. If using a pill box, keep it in a safe place if there are children around. Grandparents and others should remember that toddlers can be very curious.
- Know the name, strength of pills and dosage of your medication. Write it down so you can refer to it.
- Keep all epilepsy medications away from direct sunlight, dampness and high humidity. A bathroom cabinet or windowsill over the kitchen sink are usually not good places to keep medicines.
- Remember to tell all your doctors, as well as dentists and pharmacists, that you are taking an antiepileptic medication. It is a good idea to bring all your medication bottles with you to doctor visits.
- If you are unhappy with your level of seizure control or are having unpleasant side effects from the medication, do not assume you have to put up with it. Tell your doctor. Ask about other medications or treatments which may be appropriate for you.

## FORM (of brand name product)

## BRAND NAME (generic name)

## AVERAGE ADULT DAILY DOSE

Actual doses for a person with epilepsy may be higher or lower than the doses listed.

## SOME SIDE EFFECTS

Not all individuals experience side effects. This partial list names some side effects individuals may experience.

	<b>*ATIVAN*</b> (lorazepam)	1 mg–10 mg	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes
	<b>BANZEL™</b> (rufinamide)	3200 mg	Drowsiness vomiting, headache, fatigue, loss of appetite and dizziness.
	<b>CARBATROL*</b> (extended release carbamazepine)	600 mg–1200 mg	Dizziness, drowsiness, blurred or double vision, nausea, skin rashes, abnormal blood counts (rare)
	<b>DEPAKENE*</b> (valproate)	1750 mg–3000 mg	Upset stomach, altered bleeding time, liver toxicity, hair loss, weight gain, tremor
	<b>DEPAKOTE*</b> (divalproex sodium)	1750 mg–3000 mg	Upset stomach, altered bleeding time, liver toxicity, hair loss, weight gain, tremor
	<b>DEPAKOTE ER*</b> (extended release divalproex sodium)	2000 mg–3500 mg	Upset stomach, altered bleeding time, liver toxicity, hair loss, weight gain, tremor
	<b>DIAMOX SEQUELS*</b> (extended-release acetazolamide)	250 mg–1000 mg	Appetite loss, frequent urination, drowsiness, confusion, numbness of extremities, kidney stones
	<b>DILANTIN*</b> (phenytoin)	200 mg–400 mg	Clumsiness, insomnia, motor twitching, nausea, rash, gum overgrowth, hairiness, thickening of features
	<b>FELBATOL*</b> (felbamate)	1200 mg–3600 mg	Anorexia, vomiting, insomnia, nausea, headache, liver and blood toxicity
	<b>GABITRIL*</b> (tiagabine)	36 mg–56 mg	Tremor, dizziness, nervousness, difficulty concentrating, sleepiness, weakness
	<b>KEPPRA*</b> (levetiracetam)	1000 mg–3000 mg	Sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, loss of strength, dizziness
	<b>KEPPRA XR™</b> (extended release levetiracetam)	1000 mg–3000 mg	Sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, loss of strength, dizziness
	<b>KLONOPIN*</b> (clonazepam)	1.5 mg–20 mg	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes
	<b>LAMICTAL*</b> (lamotrigine)	100 mg–500 mg	Dizziness, headache, blurred vision, clumsiness, sleepiness, nausea, skin rash
	<b>LYRICA*</b> (pregabalin)	150 mg–600 mg	Dizziness, blurred vision, weight gain, sleepiness, difficulty concentrating, swelling of hands and feet, dry mouth
	<b>MYSOLINE*</b> (primidone)	250 mg–1000 mg	Clumsiness, dizziness, appetite loss, fatigue, drowsiness, hyperirritability, insomnia, depression, hyperactivity (children)
	<b>NEURONTIN*</b> (gabapentin)	900 mg–3600 mg	Sleepiness, dizziness, clumsiness, fatigue, twitching
	<b>PHENOBARBITAL*</b> (phenobarbital)	15 mg–100 mg	Drowsiness, irritability, hyperactivity (children), behavioral problems, difficulty concentrating, depression
	<b>PHENYTEK*</b> (extended phenytoin sodium)	200 mg–400 mg	Clumsiness, insomnia, motor twitching, nausea, rash, gum overgrowth, hairiness, thickening of features
	<b>SABRIL*</b> (vigabatrin)	2,000 mg–4,000 mg (adults) 50-150mg/kg/day (children with infantile spasms) (can be divided into 2 doses per day)	Permanent vision loss, abnormal MRIs, anemia, sleepiness, fatigue, numbness of extremities, weight gain, swelling, hyperactivity
	<b>TEGRETOL*</b> (carbamazepine)	600 mg–1200 mg	Dizziness, drowsiness, blurred or double vision, nausea, skin rashes, abnormal blood counts (rare)
	<b>TEGRETOL XR*</b> (extended release carbamazepine)	600 mg–1200 mg	Dizziness, drowsiness, blurred or double vision, nausea, skin rashes, abnormal blood counts (rare)
	<b>TOPAMAX*</b> (topiramate)	200 mg–400 mg	Confusion, sleepiness, dizziness, clumsiness, difficulty thinking or talking, tingling sensation of the skin, nausea, decreased appetite
	<b>TRANXENE*</b> (clorazepate)	15 mg–45 mg	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes
	<b>TRILEPTAL*</b> (oxcarbazepine)	600 mg–2400 mg	Difficulty concentrating, sleepiness, fatigue, dizziness, double vision, nausea, unsteadiness, rash
	<b>VIMPAT®</b> (lacosamide)	200 mg–400 mg	Dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, double vision, blurred vision, walking difficulty, drowsiness, diarrhea, falls, unintentional rapid eye movement, tremor
	<b>ZARONTIN*</b> (ethosuximide)	500 mg–1500 mg	Appetite loss, nausea, drowsiness, headache, dizziness, fatigue, rash, abnormal blood counts (rare)
	<b>ZONEGRAN*</b> (zonisamide)	100 mg–600 mg	Sleepiness, dizziness, loss of appetite, headache, nausea, irritability, difficulty concentrating, unsteadiness, fever, kidney stones, rash (should not be used in individuals allergic to sulfa drugs)
	<b>DIASTAT ACUDIAL™</b> (diazepam rectal gel)	Average Single Dose 0.2 mg. – 0.5 mg./kg.	Drowsiness, sleepiness, fatigue, poor coordination, unsteadiness, behavior changes

**The following medicine is not prescribed for daily, long-term use, but to stop episodes of prolonged or cluster seizures.**