

## TRIMETHOPRIM AND SULFAMETHOXAZOLE

*try-meth-oh-prim and sul-fah-meth-ox-ah-zole*

### What does it do?

*Trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole* is an antibiotic used to treat and prevent bacterial infections.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have an allergy to 'sulfa' medicines, if you have kidney, liver or blood problems, or if you have G6PD deficiency.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

### How should you take it?

Take *trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole* regularly as directed. You can take it with or without food. Keep taking it until the course is finished, even if you start to feel better.

Tablet: Take with a glass of water.

Liquid: Measure carefully with an oral syringe or measuring spoon. Shake the bottle well before measuring each dose.

### What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible and continue as directed.

### Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole* including:

- potassium supplements (e.g. Span K®)

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

### What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects   | Recommended action                          |
|--|---|
| Skin rash, skin peeling or blisters  | Stop taking and see your doctor immediately |
| Severe headache, stiff neck, confusion, eyes sensitive to light<br>Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections or help your blood to clot - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell, or easy or unusual bruising or bleeding<br>Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain<br>Severe stomach pain, nausea | Tell your doctor immediately                |
| Changes in heartbeat, muscle cramps or weakness  | Tell your doctor                            |
| Stomach upset  | Tell your doctor if troublesome             |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.