

***About your medication***

**CIPROFLOXACIN**

(C-Flox® , Ciprol® , Ciproxin® ,  
Profloxacin®  
250mg , 500mg and 750mg tablets)

*Other brands may be available*

The brand you have been given is:

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## **WHAT IS CIPROFLOXACIN?**

Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic belonging to a class of medications called quinolone antibiotics. It is only available with a doctor's prescription.

## **WHAT IS IT FOR?**

It is used to treat serious bacterial infections. Some types of infections it is used for are lung, skin, blood, bone, joint, stomach, kidney or bladder infections as well as some forms of diarrhoea.

## **HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE**

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and is not given to other people.

- The dose is usually taken twice a day (every 12 hours).
- Ciprofloxacin is best given half an hour before food. However, if it causes stomach upset or is difficult to swallow due to taste it may be given with food. It should be taken with a glass of water. Several extra glasses of water should be drunk during the day.
- Avoid swallowing tablets with milk. Dairy foods reduce absorption of ciprofloxacin and should be separated by one to two hours.

## **WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED**

If you miss a dose of the medication it can be taken as soon as you remember. Do not take it if it is less than four hours before the next dose.

**Do not double-up on any doses.**

## **STORING THE MEDICINE**

It is important to keep ciprofloxacin locked away out of the reach of children.

Do not keep the tablets in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cold, dry place. Do not refrigerate.

## **USE OF OTHER MEDICINES**

Care must be taken when using ciprofloxacin with some other medications. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any medicine or medicine purchased without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. This is important with medications such as theophylline, probenecid, cyclosporin, warfarin or other anticoagulants (blood thinners). Caffeine found in cola drinks and coffee can interact with ciprofloxacin so consumption of these drinks should be kept to a minimum in your child.

Ciprofloxacin should not be taken at the same time as iron tablets or antacids.

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Talk to your child's doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol)

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The company that makes ciprofloxacin does not recommend that it be given to children and young adolescents. The reason for this is ciprofloxacin has not been used a lot in children and has caused joint problems in young animals.

For this reason ciprofloxacin is only used in children for serious infection and only for a short while at a time. Your doctor will discuss this with you before prescribing ciprofloxacin.

- Do not stop taking ciprofloxacin without first checking with the doctor. Finish the full course even if the infection has cleared up and you feel better.
- Excessive exposure to sunlight while on ciprofloxacin may result in your child developing a rash. Reduce exposure to sunlight by wearing a hat, light loose clothing and putting on SPF Factor 15 sunscreen on exposed skin areas.
- Do not take this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to ciprofloxacin or other quinolone antibiotics.

### **POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

Side effects can occur while taking ciprofloxacin. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

#### **Less serious side effects include:**

- nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea
- dizziness, headache, faintness, decreased alertness or light-headedness. Care must be taken with riding bikes, driving cars or operating machinery. These effects may be worse if alcohol is taken.

#### **More Serious** (Contact doctor as soon as possible if any of the following occur):

- blurred or decreased vision, double vision or lights appearing bright
- pain or stiffness of the joints or back
- inflammation or swelling of the tendons
- blood in the urine or pain while urinating

#### **Allergic reaction** (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- Skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing

*IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT*



***Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard on 03 9345 5522  
OR***

***Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492  
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT  
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26 (24 hour service)***

This leaflet answers some common questions about your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – OCTOBER 2010.

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