

## Carbamazepine (car-ba-maz-eh-peen)

You should read this leaflet with your carer/care giver.



### Carbamazepine:

- Is also called Tegretol, Epimaz or Carbagen.
- Come as tablets or liquid.

- Carbamazepine is used for treating epilepsy and manic depression (bipolar disorder).
- Carbamazepine is sometimes used for people who are distressed. There is no clear evidence that it improves someone's behaviour.

The label on your carbamazepine packet should tell you when and how much medicine to take.

Swallow your tablet or capsule with water,

Or,

Measure and swallow the liquid.

If you forget to take your medicine, tell someone straight away.

You should carry on taking your medicine even if you feel better unless your doctor asks you to stop.



Drinking alcohol when taking carbamazepine could make you feel sleepy.

Some medicines do not work well together.

You should tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking.

### Side effects:

- Medicine can have some effects on your body that are not wanted.
- Not everyone taking a medicine will get them.
- Many will go away with time.
- Many are rare.

You might want to talk to your doctor or the pharmacist or your key worker if you have any side effect.

These are some (but NOT all) side effects of carbamazepine...

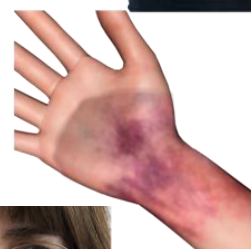


- Seeing double - Seeing more than one thing when there is only one there
- Feeling light headed and faint
- Feeling sick or being sick
- Feeling sleepy or sluggish
- Swollen ankles
- Skin rash
- Constipation or upset tummy
- Low blood salt (sodium) (check blood test)

Some side effects are more serious.

You should tell someone straight away if you...

- Find it hard to think and your mind feels mixed up
- Bleed or bruise more than usual
- Have ulcers in your mouth and eyes
- Have red rashes or skin pain
- Are unsteady on your feet
- Have high temperature or a sore throat
- Have flu-like symptoms



You should talk to your doctor before you stop taking your medicine.

Sometimes, if you stop taking your medicine, you may have:

- Problem with sleeping
- Anxiety
- No feelings in your body parts or you cannot sense body parts
- Joint pain
- Shaking

## Regular blood tests must be done for:

- Full blood count, urea and electrolytes. Sometimes, blood carbamazepine level.



This leaflet does not tell you everything about carbamazepine.

You can get more information from:

- your pharmacist, doctor, nurse or carer/care giver
- check <http://www.choiceandmedication.org/cnwl/>
- NHS on 111
- medicine information helpline on 020 3317 5090.

This leaflet can be downloaded free of charge from:

<https://spectrom.wixsite.com/project/>

While preparing this leaflet we checked information in...

- The British National Formulary ([www.bnf.org](http://www.bnf.org))
- Dulcan, M. K., & Ballard, R. (2015). *Helping parents and teachers understand medications for behavioural and emotional problems: A resource book of medication information handouts*. American Psychiatric Publishing, Washington DC, USA.

This leaflet is not designed for people with intellectual/learning disabilities to read on their own. Support (care) staff or care givers should go through the leaflet with the person who has intellectual disabilities.

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