

# **Anticonvulsant MEDICATION GUIDE**

**Common meds: Phenobarbital, Antispasmodic elixir, Barbita, BDM, Bellamine, Bellamine-S, Bellergal-S, Donnatal, GI cocktail, Hyosphen, Luminal, Orpine, Phenobarb, Solubarb.**

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking this drug and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You and your healthcare provider should talk about this drug when you start taking it and at regular checkups.

## **Why is this medication prescribed?**

Anticonvulsants are used to control epilepsy (seizures) and for many other purposes.

## **What is the most important information I should know about anticonvulsants?**

- If this drug causes an allergic reaction, get emergency help as soon as possible.
- Do not stop taking this drug even if you feel better; talk to your Dr first.
- Do not use this drug if you are pregnant.
- Do not share this drug with anyone, especially someone who has abuse and addiction problems.

## **How should this medicine be used?**

Take this drug exactly as directed. Do not change the dose of this drug unless you talk to your Dr first.

## **What should I do if I forget a dose?**

If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.

## **What should I avoid while taking this drug?**

- Avoid driving and hazardous activities since this drug can cause drowsiness.
- Avoid all over counter drugs that cause sleepiness.
- Avoid alcohol.

## **What are the side effects of this medication?**

Common side effects from this drug that can occur:

- drowsiness
- headache
- dizziness
- depression
- excitement (especially in children)
- upset stomach
- vomiting

Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- nightmares
- increased dreaming
- constipation
- joint or muscle pain

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

- seizures
- mouth sores
- sore throat
- easy bruising
- bloody nose
- unusual bleeding
- fever
- difficulty breathing or swallowing
- severe skin rash