

## Basic Medications Activity 2

**Directions:** Fill in the answers on the Medication Safety Questionnaire.

<b>ABC Pharmacy</b>	
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Dr.Diaz	
<b>RX 10387</b>	05/05/08
<b>JACOB SMITH</b>	
TAKE ONE TABLET EVERY DAY ORALLY ( 8a.m.)	
For Seizures	
<b>TEGRETOL 400mg</b>	#30 Tablets
EXPIRES: 05/02/09	2 REFILLS
MFG: MANY MEDICATIONS, INC	
FILLED BY: BRS	

Name			
Brand: _____	Dose (e.g., mg) and form (e.g., tabs)	When to take each dose?	For how long?
Generic: _____			

1. What is the medication supposed to do?
2. How long before I will know it is working or not working?
3. What about serum (blood) levels? Other laboratory work? How often? Where? Standing order?
4. If the individual misses a dose, what should I do?

### **INTERACTIONS?**

5. Should this medication be taken with food?  Yes  No  
 At least one hour before or two hours after a meal?  Yes  No
6. Are there any foods, supplements (such as, herbs, vitamins, minerals), drinks (alcoholic, for example), or activities that should be avoided while taking this medication?  
 Yes (Which ones?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 No
7. Are there any other prescription or over-the-counter medications that should be avoided?  
 Yes (Which ones?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 No

### **SIDE EFFECTS? IF SO, RESPONSE?**

8. What are common side effects?
9. If there are any side effects, what should I do?
10. If the drug is being prescribed for a long period of time, are there any long-term effects?

## Basic medications - Activity 2

### Tegretol (Carbamazepin) Information Sheet

#### ***What is carbamazepine?***

- Carbamazepine is a drug that affects the nerves and brain. It works by decreasing impulses in nerves that cause seizures and pain.
- Carbamazepine is used to treat seizures and nerve pain such as trigeminal neuralgia and diabetic neuropathy.
- Carbamazepine may also be used for purposes other than those listed in this medication guide.

#### ***Who should not take carbamazepine?***

- Do not take carbamazepine without first talking to your doctor if you have ever had an allergic reaction to a tricyclic antidepressant; have taken a monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor in the past 14 days; or have a bone marrow disease or a history of bone marrow suppression.

#### ***Before taking carbamazepine, tell your doctor if you have:***

- kidney disease;
- liver disease;
- heart disease;
- a low level of red blood cells in your body (anemia); or
- glaucoma.

You may not be able to take carbamazepine, or you may require a dosage adjustment or special monitoring during treatment if you have any of the conditions listed above.

- Do not take this medication without first talking to your doctor if you are pregnant or breast-feeding a baby.

#### ***How should I take carbamazepine?***

- Take carbamazepine exactly as directed by your doctor.
- Take each dose with a full glass of water.
- The Tegretol, Tegretol XR, and Eptol brands of carbamazepine should be taken with food.
- Do not crush, break, or chew any extended-release (Tegretol XR) formulations of carbamazepine. Swallow them whole. They are specially formulated to release slowly in the body.
- The tablet coating of the Tegretol XR formulation is not absorbed in the body and may be found in the stool.
- Your doctor may want you to have blood tests during treatment with carbamazepine. It is important for your doctor to know how much carbamazepine is in your blood and how well your liver is working. A complete blood count (CBC) and liver function (SGOT) should be checked 1-2 months after Tegretol is started. Thereafter levels should be checked every six months or so.
- It may take a few weeks or longer before you feel the full benefit of carbamazepine.
- Carry or wear a medical identification tag to let others know that you are taking this medicine in the case of an emergency.
- Do not stop taking carbamazepine even if you feel better. It is important to continue taking carbamazepine to prevent your seizures from recurring.
- Grapefruit and grapefruit juice may interact with carbamazepine. The interaction could lead to potentially adverse effects. You should discuss the use of grapefruit and grapefruit juice with your doctor. Do not increase or decrease the amount of grapefruit products in your diet without first talking to your doctor.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight. Use sunscreen and wear protective clothing.
- Store carbamazepine at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

### ***What happens if I miss a dose?***

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and take only the next regularly scheduled dose. Do not take a double dose of this medication.

### ***What happens if I overdose?***

- Seek emergency medical treatment.

Symptoms of a carbamazepine overdose include irregular or decreased breathing, muscle twitches, restlessness, seizures, tremors, slurred speech, staggering walk, dizziness, large pupils, back- and- forth motion of the eyes, nausea, vomiting, and decreased urine production.

### ***What are the possible side effects of carbamazepine?***

If you experience any of the following serious side effects, contact your doctor immediately or seek emergency medical attention:

- an allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of your throat; swelling of your lips, tongue, or face; or hives);
- liver damage (yellowing of the skin or eyes, nausea, abdominal pain or discomfort, severe fatigue);
- chest pain, high blood pressure (headache, flushing), or congestive heart failure (shortness of breath, swelling of ankles);
- numbness or tingling in the hands, feet, arms, or legs;
- body or muscle jerks;
- confusion, slurred speech, or fainting;
- continuing headache, hallucinations, or depression;
- severe nausea or vomiting;
- back- and- forth movements of the eyes;
- blurred or double vision; or
- decreased urination.

- Rarely, carbamazepine may cause serious blood problems. Notify your doctor immediately if you develop any of the following symptoms, which may be early signs of potential blood problems: fever, sore throat, rash, sores in the mouth, easy bruising, or red or purple bruising.

Other, less serious side effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take carbamazepine and talk to your doctor if you experience

- mild nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, or decreased appetite;
- dry mouth;
- impotence; or
- joint or muscle aches or pains.

Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

### ***What other drugs will affect carbamazepine?***

- Carbamazepine can interact with many other medicines and many medications may affect your condition. Do not take any other prescription or over- the counter medicines or herbal products without first talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

### ***Where can I get more information?***

Your pharmacist has additional information about carbamazepine written for health professionals that you may read.

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