

ALLOPURINOL

PATIENT INFORMATION GUIDE



Never give your medicines to others even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

WHY HAVE WE GIVEN YOU THIS GUIDE?

- This information is for you to use when taking allopurinol
- Allopurinol is an effective medicine for preventing gout
- Allopurinol can cause side effects so it is important that you know how to take it safely
- Talk to your doctor, pharmacist (chemist) or nurse if you have any questions

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO TAKE ALLOPURINOL SAFELY

- Know what dose you should be taking; some people start on a low dose and increase it slowly over a few weeks
- Take allopurinol with meals if it upsets your stomach
- Let your doctor know if you have stomach pain or diarrhoea; gout may get worse if you are dehydrated
- Do not stop taking allopurinol without checking with your doctor first; stopping quickly can make your gout worse

▶ ALLOPURINOL CAN BE HARMFUL

- ▶ **Extra care is needed when taking allopurinol because it may cause allergic reactions**
- ▶ **Always store allopurinol out of reach and out of sight of children**
- ▶ **Let your doctor or pharmacist (chemist) know immediately if you:**
Have a skin rash, or feel very sick; you may be having an allergic reaction
- ▶ **Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of the medicines you are taking**
Allopurinol can be harmful when taken with **some** other medicines
- ▶ **PREGNANCY and allopurinol**
 - If you are taking allopurinol and become pregnant let your doctor or pharmacist (chemist) know
 - If you are breastfeeding, allopurinol will not harm your baby, but let your doctor know if your baby gets a rash
- ▶ **Do not take any more than recommended**
High doses can be harmful