

**PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION****EMEND<sup>®</sup>  
aprepitant capsules**

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when EMEND<sup>®</sup> was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about EMEND<sup>®</sup>. Contact your physician or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start to take your medicine, even if you have just refilled your prescription. Some of the information in the previous leaflet may have changed.

Remember that your physician has prescribed this medicine only for you. Never give it to anyone else.

**ABOUT THIS MEDICATION****What the medication is used for:**

EMEND<sup>®</sup>, in combination with 5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonists and dexamethasone, is indicated for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with your cancer chemotherapy treatment.

**What it does:**

EMEND<sup>®</sup> is a member of a new class of medicines called neurokinin 1 (NK<sub>1</sub>) receptor antagonists. EMEND<sup>®</sup> works by blocking neurokinin, a substance in the brain that causes nausea and vomiting.

**When it should not be used:**

Do not take EMEND<sup>®</sup> if you are allergic to any of its ingredients.

Do not take EMEND<sup>®</sup> with pimozide, terfenadine, astemizole, or cisapride. Taking EMEND<sup>®</sup> with these medications could result in **serious or life-threatening problems**.

**What the medicinal ingredient is:**

Aprepitant

**What the important non-medicinal ingredients are:**

Gelatin, hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose sodium lauryl sulfate, sucrose and titanium dioxide. The 125 mg capsule shell also contains red ferric oxide and yellow ferric oxide.

**What dosage forms it comes in:**

Each capsule contains 80 mg or 125 mg of aprepitant.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS****Serious Warnings and Precautions**

Drug interactions with:

- Medicines that are likely to be broken down mainly by the liver
- Warfarin
- Hormonal contraception (birth control medicines)

BEFORE you use EMEND<sup>®</sup> talk to your physician or pharmacist if:

- you have any past or present medical problems
- you have liver problems
- you have any allergies
- you drive a car or operate machinery
- you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed

**Use in children**

EMEND<sup>®</sup> should not be given to children under 18 years of age.

**Use in the elderly**

No dosage adjustment is necessary.

**INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION**

Tell your physician about all medicines that you are taking or plan to take, even those you can get without a prescription or herbal products.

Your physician may check that your medicines are working properly together if you are taking other medicines such as:

- anti-anxiety drugs (such as alprazolam, midazolam)
- birth control medicines (which may not work as well)
- ketoconazole (an antifungal)
- rifampin (an antibiotic)
- paroxetine (a medicine used to treat a certain type of depression)
- diltiazem (a medicine used to treat high blood pressure)
- dexamethasone, methylprednisolone (steroid medicines used for a variety of conditions)
- warfarin (a blood thinner)
- tolbutamide (a medicine used to treat diabetes)
- phenytoin (a medicine used to treat seizures)
- some chemotherapy medications such as ifosfamide

**PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION****Usual dose:**

Take EMEND<sup>®</sup> exactly as your physician has prescribed. The recommended dose of EMEND<sup>®</sup> is one 125 mg capsule by mouth 1 hour before you start your chemotherapy treatment on Day 1 **and** one 80 mg capsule by mouth each morning for the 2 days following your chemotherapy treatment.

EMEND<sup>®</sup> may be taken with or without food.

**Overdose:**

If you take more than the prescribed dosage, contact your physician immediately.

**Missed Dose:**

Try to take EMEND<sup>®</sup> as prescribed. However, if you miss a dose, contact your physician for further instructions.

**SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Any medicine may have unintended or undesirable effects, so-called side effects.

Like all prescription drugs, EMEND<sup>®</sup> may cause side effects.

The most common side effects included diarrhea, stomach pain, upset stomach, vomiting, dizziness, hiccups, fatigue, weakness, constipation, headache, hair loss, and loss of appetite.

Other side effects may also occur rarely, which include: anxiousness, fever with increased risk of infection, dry mouth, conjunctivitis (eye discharge and itching), excessive sweating, flushing, painful burning urination, muscle cramp or pain, taste disturbance, ringing in the ear (tinnitus), and low blood pressure.

The following side effects have been reported in general use with EMEND<sup>®</sup>: Allergic reactions, which may be serious, and may include hives, rash and itching and cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing. If you have an allergic reaction, stop taking EMEND<sup>®</sup> and call your physician right away.

Ask your physician or pharmacist for more information. Both have a more complete list of side effects. Tell your physician or pharmacist promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms.

**SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Symptoms / Effects		Talk with your physician or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your physician or pharmacist
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Uncommon	Allergic reactions/ Angioedema (swelling of the face, eyes, lips, tongue, throat, difficulty in breathing or swallowing)			√
Uncommon	Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis (severe skin reactions, blistering)			✓
Uncommon	Urticaria (severe rash, itching, swelling of the hands and feet)			✓

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking EMEND<sup>®</sup>, contact your physician or pharmacist.*

**HOW TO STORE IT**

Store at room temperature (15°C to 30°C).

**Keep EMEND<sup>®</sup> and all medicines safely away from children.**

**REPORTING SIDE EFFECTS**

You can help improve the safe use of health products for Canadians by reporting serious and unexpected side effects to Health Canada. Your report may help to identify new side effects and change the product safety information.

**3 ways to report:**

- Online at [MedEffect](#);
  - By calling 1-866-234-2345 (toll-free);
  - By completing a Consumer Side Effect Reporting Form and sending it by:
    - Fax to 1-866-678-6789 (toll-free), or
    - Mail to:
      - Canada Vigilance Program
      - Health Canada, Postal Locator
      - 1908C
      - Ottawa, ON
      - K1A 0K9
- Postage paid labels and the Consumer Side Effect Reporting Form are available at [MedEffect](#).

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

**MORE INFORMATION****If you want more information about EMEND<sup>®</sup>:**

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Consumer Information by visiting the [Health Canada website](#) or Merck Canada web site [www.merck.ca](http://www.merck.ca) or by calling Merck Canada at 1-800-567-2594

This leaflet was prepared by Merck Canada Inc.

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