

# Digoxin

## Information for Patients

**You have been given a medicine called Digoxin**

### ***Why has my doctor given me digoxin?***

Digoxin is used to treat a weak heart (known as heart failure) or to regulate the heart rhythm.

Check with your doctor if you are still not sure why you need digoxin.

### ***How does it work?***

Digoxin makes the heart beat more slowly and regularly. It also makes heart beat more strongly by strengthening the the pumping action of the heart.

### ***How should I take my digoxin?***

Always follow the instructions on the label. Do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop. Digoxin tablets should be swallowed whole with water. Digoxin is usually taken in the morning and is best if taken at the same time each day.

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

Take it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next dose, do not take the one you missed. Take the next dose at the usual time. Do not double up the next dose.

### ***What are the side effects of digoxin?***

All drugs have side effects but most people will not experience them.

The following can occur in some people:-

- nausea and vomiting
- diarrhoea
- loss of appetite
- visual disturbances

If you are sick and have diarrhoea for more than one day and there is no likely cause, you should see your doctor. This is important if your heart is also beating very fast or very slowly. Often the side effects are as a result of having increased drug levels in your blood. Your doctor will be able to test your blood and adjust your dose to correct this. If you are unsure, speak to your pharmacist or doctor.

### ***Can I take other medicines while taking digoxin?***

Yes, but some other medicines may affect how digoxin works. It is important that you check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines including ones that you buy over the counter.

This leaflet is not intended as a substitute for any advice that your doctor, nurse or pharmacist may give you.

More detailed information can be obtained from the manufacturers information leaflet.

Pharmaceutical Service      August 2016

Review date                      August 2020

If you require a copy of this leaflet in any other language or format please contact us quoting the leaflet code and the language or format you require.