

NEVIRAPINE DRUG INFORMATION FOR THE PARENT/CAREGIVER

**** Please review and send home with the baby's caregiver ****

NEVIRAPINE (Viramune®)

WHY is this medication being prescribed for your baby?

- In addition to zidovudine, additional antiretroviral medications may be prescribed for the baby to help prevent the baby from getting HIV infection.
- Nevirapine is given as part of a protocol in which the newborn receives a total of 3 doses by mouth:

HOW should this medication be taken?

First dose: given as soon as possible after birth (day 0)
Second dose: given at 2 days of age
Third dose: given at 6 days of age

Instructions: Give before, during, or after a feed.

The dose of nevirapine liquid for your baby is _____ mg (which is _____ mL) given on the following days:

At birth (day 0): _____ TWO days of age: _____ SIX days of age: _____

- Nevirapine is available as a sweet flavored syrup. Each milliliter (mL) contains 10 mg of the medication (written as 10 mg/mL on the label).
- Nevirapine should be given once daily at the same time of day on the dates specified in the above schedule. The first dose will have already been given to the baby in hospital. Depending on when the baby goes home he/she may require the second and/or third doses to be given at home.

Always measure each dose with the specially marked oral syringe provided.

- Nevirapine can be given before, after or during a feed. To give the medicine, gently place the oral syringe in the baby's mouth just inside the cheek and give 4 or 5 gentle pushes on the plunger of the syringe. Allow the baby to swallow the liquid between pushes on the plunger to ensure that the baby does not gag or choke. Ensure that the baby receives the full dose of nevirapine.
- It is not a good idea to mix nevirapine with the baby's formula. The reason is that if the baby does not drink all of the formula, he/she will not get the full dose.
- Store the medication at room temperature. *Do not store in your bathroom as heat and moisture may cause the medicine to lose its effectiveness.*
- Keep out of the reach of children. The doctor or the Poison Control Centre should be contacted in the event of accidental ingestion of this or any other medication.

What should you do if your baby MISSES a dose?

- If you forget to give your baby his/her dose of nevirapine, give it to him/her as soon as possible. If it is the next day, give the baby his/her missed dose and carry on with the regular schedule.
- If your baby vomits within 15 minutes of the dose, give another dose if possible. If it is more than 15 minutes after the dose, do NOT give another dose just wait until the next regular dose.
- ****It is very important not to miss any doses of this medicine.** If you are having trouble remembering to give this medication, you may find it helpful to set an alarm on your watch or your phone to help to remind you.

What POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS can this medication cause?

- When it is given as a three-dose regimen nevirapine is very well tolerated. Only mild adverse effects on babies were seen during research trials. These included mild skin rash or low red blood cells (anemia).
- Blood tests will also be done on your baby at 2 and 4 weeks after birth to check for these side effects. ****It is very important to keep all follow-up medical appointments for the baby.**
- Do not stop a medication or make changes to your baby's treatment unless recommended by your doctor.
- Nevirapine can interact with other medications. It is important that your physician or pharmacist know about other prescription and non-prescription medications your baby is taking. Acetaminophen (Atasol[®], Tempra[®], and Tylenol[®]) may be given safely with nevirapine.

Syringes and Medication

- You will be given oral nevirapine liquid to take home when discharged from the hospital. The volume provided will be more than enough to complete the three doses of therapy.
- A supply of oral syringes will be provided. Use one syringe for each dose of nevirapine and then discard.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE MEDICATIONS YOU CAN CALL THE PHARMACIST AT THE OAK TREE CLINIC IN VANCOUVER (604-875-2212)

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evenings or weekends you can call the Centre for Excellence in HIV Pharmacy Hotline at 1-888-511-6222. This is a toll-free number from anywhere in B.C.