

## HOW DO I STORE THESE MEDICATIONS?

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight, unless otherwise stated.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or PD nurse.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

## PHARMACY

Drug Information

### Medications for Patients on Peritoneal Dialysis



## WHAT IS PERITONEAL DIALYSIS?

- Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is a treatment for kidney failure. When the kidneys do not work well, they are unable to remove wastes and excess fluid from the body. Dialysis is a treatment that eliminates these from the body.
- Before starting on PD, a tube (also known as a catheter) will be inserted permanently into the peritoneal cavity. This catheter allows the dialysis fluid (also known as dialysate) to flow into the peritoneal cavity during dialysis. As the dialysate remains in the abdomen for a few hours each time, wastes and excess fluid are cleared from the blood into the dialysate. The dialysate, which contains these unwanted substances, is subsequently drained out of the body.

## HOW CAN THE MEDICATIONS HELP PATIENTS ON PERITONEAL DIALYSIS?

- Medications can help to protect the remaining kidney function, normalise water and salt imbalances, and prevent complications from high blood pressure and high blood sugar.
- Medications may also be given to help reduce the phosphate absorption from your meals and also prevent bone loss.
- You may also need oral iron supplements and erythropoietin injection to improve your symptoms caused by low blood counts.

## CAN THE MEDICATIONS BE ADMINISTERED / TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

- Consult your doctor, pharmacist or PD nurse before taking any other medications, including over-the-counter medicines or health supplements. Some of them should not be taken with your current medications or may cause further damage to the kidneys. Always bring all your medications or medication list when you visit your doctor or pharmacist.
- The following medications should be avoided. Consult your doctor, pharmacist or PD nurse before taking them.
  - Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), used to relieve pain and swelling
  - Antacids, for gastric pain or bloatedness symptoms

- Fleet enema, a laxative
- Traditional Chinese Medicine

## WHAT ARE SOME COMMON MEDICATIONS SPECIFIC FOR PATIENTS ON PERITONEAL DIALYSIS?

- (1) Potassium supplement e.g. Potassium chloride SR tablet, Potassium chloride mixture
  - These medications maintain a normal potassium level in the body while on PD. Having low potassium levels is dangerous and can lead to muscle weakness and heart problems.
  - If PD cannot be carried out on any day (for any reason), please inform the PD nurse. Further instructions will be given if there is a need to stop potassium supplements.
  - DO NOT stop potassium supplements without first informing the doctor, pharmacist or PD nurse.
- (2) Antibiotic creams e.g. Gentamicin cream, Mupirocin cream (Bactroban)
  - An antibiotic cream is to be applied daily to the PD catheter exit site during dressing change. The cream helps to reduce the risk of infections.
- (3) Laxatives e.g. Lactulose syrup, Sennosides tablet, Bisacodyl tablet or suppository, PEG powder packet
  - Laxatives are medications that help to relieve constipation and soften stools. Constipation can cause problems with the position of the PD catheter, and this may result in poor drainage during dialysis.
  - The dose and frequency of the laxatives may be adjusted to ensure you have at least two to three bowel movements daily.

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.