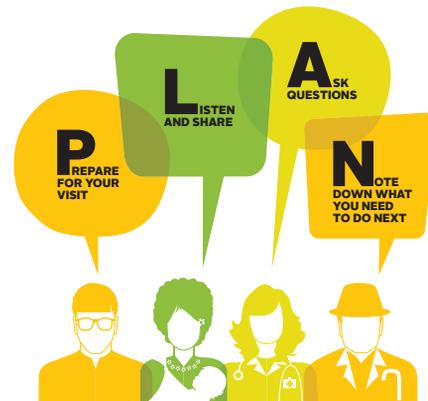


# Reducing harm from high-risk medicines



## Methotrexate

### What is it for?

Methotrexate – pronounced 'meth-oh-trex-ate' – is a medicine used to treat some skin conditions and arthritis.

### How and when do I take it?

You only take it once a week – on the same day each week.

Methotrexate is a safe and effective medicine taken once a week but you may have serious side effects if you take it more often.

There are two tablet strengths, 2.5mg and 10mg – check you are taking the right dose for your condition.

### How long do I need to take it for?

This will depend on how your condition and body responds to methotrexate. Your health professional will monitor and advise you.

### What could happen if I stop taking it?

Talk to your health professional before stopping methotrexate unless they have told you to stop taking it for any reason.

### What are the side effects? What should I do if I get these?

Methotrexate can make you more likely to burn in the sun so take extra care to cover up and use sunblock.

Other possible side effects are mouth ulcers, sore throat, fever, stomach pain or yellowing of the skin or eyes, dry cough, chest pain or breathing problems. Tell your doctor straightaway if you get any of these. It is important that you go for all your blood tests while taking methotrexate to check for side effects.

### Other things to check with your pharmacist (chemist)

You might also be given folic acid as well as methotrexate (the folic acid is taken once a week on a different day to the methotrexate). If you are, check with your pharmacist (chemist) about this.

**Tell your health professional (for example, doctor, nurse or pharmacist) about all the medicines you are taking because methotrexate can interact with other medicines. You can also ask them for more information about methotrexate.**

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