

## Cetirizine Hydrochloride

**Read all of this leaflet carefully because it contains important information for you.**

This medicine is available without prescription to treat minor conditions. However, you still need to take it carefully to get the best results from it.

- Keep this leaflet, you may need to read it again
- Ask your pharmacist if you need more information or advice

### **What this medicine is for**

This medicine contains Cetirizine Hydrochloride which belongs to a group of medicines called antihistamines, which act to relieve the symptoms of some allergies.

It can be used to relieve the symptoms of hayfever, year round runny and itchy nose and other allergies such as pet and dust allergies. It can also be used to treat raised, red itchy skin (symptoms of urticaria, which is often known as hives or nettle rash).

### **Before you take this medicine**

This medicine can be taken by adults and children aged 6 years and over. However, some people should not take this medicine or should seek the advice of their pharmacist or doctor first.

#### **Do not take:**

- **If you are allergic** to any of the ingredients (see What is in this medicine)
- **If you have an intolerance to some sugars**, unless your doctor tells you to (this medicine contains lactose)
- **If you are pregnant or breastfeeding**

#### **Talk to your pharmacist or doctor:**

- If you have kidney problems (you may need to have a smaller amount of this medicine)

### **Other important information**

**Driving and using machines:** This medicine does not normally cause drowsiness in the majority of people taking it. Therefore it will not normally affect your ability to drive or operate machinery. However, very occasionally some people do report drowsiness or dizziness after taking cetirizine. If affected do not drive or use machines.

**Do not drink alcohol** (wine, beer, spirits) whilst taking this medicine.

### **If you take other medicines**

This medicine is not expected to affect any other medicines that you may be taking. If you are unsure about interactions with any medicines, talk to your pharmacist. This includes medicines prescribed by your doctor and medicine you have bought for yourself, including herbal and homeopathic remedies.

### **How to take this medicine**

Check the foil is not broken before use. If it is, do not take that tablet.

One tablet once daily

**If you have kidney problems** your doctor or pharmacist may advise you to take half of this amount. If this applies to you, follow their instructions.

Swallow the tablet with a drink of water.

Do not give to children under 6 years.

Do not take more than the amount recommended above.

If symptoms do not go away talk to your doctor.

**If you take too many tablets:** Go to casualty or talk to a doctor straight away. Take your medicine and this leaflet with you.

### **Possible side effects**

Most people will not have problems, but some may get some.

**If you get any of these serious side effects, stop taking the tablets. See a doctor at once:**

- Difficulty breathing, swelling of the face, neck, tongue or throat (severe allergic reactions)
- Skin rash

**These other effects are less serious. If they bother you talk to a pharmacist:**

- Headache, agitation
- Dry mouth, upset stomach
- Drowsiness, dizziness
- Very rarely, fits

**If any side effect becomes severe, or you notice any side effect not listed here, please tell your pharmacist or doctor.**

**How to store this medicine**

Keep this medicine in a safe place out of the sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cupboard.

Use by the date on the end flap of the carton. If you still have tablets left return them to your nearest pharmacy for disposal.