

# Elavil (amitriptyline)

## Parent Information Sheet

### *Why it is prescribed*

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Elavil is given for the treatment of depression, chronic pain and to prevent migraines.

### *How to give Elavil*

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- Elavil is prescribed only for use by the patient whose name appears on the prescription.
- Elavil requires adult supervision at home and at school. Your child should not be expected to remember to take the medication on his/her own. Your school will require a form for school medication administration signed by the doctor.
- Give Elavil exactly as your doctor has prescribed.
- Do not give Elavil more often or in larger doses than what your doctor has ordered. If you have any questions or concerns about the current medication, call your doctor's office.
- If you miss a dose take the missed dose as soon as possible; then take the remaining doses for that day at regularly spaced times. Do not give a double dose.

*Your child's doctor is:*

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*The phone number to the office is  
(313) 832-1100 ext. 220*

### **Side Effects**

The most **common**: tiredness, confusion, blood pressure changes, dry mouth, constipation, increased appetite, weight gain, problems sleeping, increased sensitivity to the sun.

**Serious**: loss of bladder control, seizures, rapid heartbeat, twitching or involuntary movement of your body or face, severe muscle stiffness.

Report any of these side effects to your doctor immediately.

### *Special Considerations*

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- An EKG may be needed before beginning medication and periodically while on medication.
- This medication should not be given to pregnant Women because it can harm the baby. Do not become pregnant during treatment with Elavil.

### *Procedure for getting a prescription*

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- If you require a prescription refill before your next scheduled appointment, please call the clinical services office at (313) 832-1100 ext. 220.
- Please have your pharmacy phone number available before calling for prescription refills.
- The Detroit Institute for Children is not open on weekends or holidays. The clinical services office is open from 8 am-5pm Monday through Thursday and 8 am – 12 noon on Friday.
- If you are overdue for a return appointment or have not kept a scheduled appointment, your child's doctor reserves the right not to prescribe the medication.

**Poison Control Center:**

**1-800-764-7661 (1-800-POISON-1)**