

Phenobarbital

Parent Information Sheet

Why it is prescribed

Phenobarbital is a barbiturate that is used to treat epilepsy. Phenobarbital does not cure epilepsy, but it helps to prevent certain types of seizures.

How to give Phenobarbital

- Phenobarbital is prescribed only for use by the patient whose name appears on the prescription. Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.
- Give Phenobarbital exactly as your doctor has prescribed. Give the medicine at the same time every day.
- Do not give the medication 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.
- Never give a double dose to make up a missed dose.
- Administration of Phenobarbital requires adult supervision at home. Your child should not be expected to remember to take the medication on his/her own.
- Phenobarbital comes in tablet and liquid form. Liquid phenobarbital must be measured carefully. Use a marked syringe, medicine cup, or measuring spoon. Household teaspoons **SHOULD NOT** be used. Phenobarbital tablets can be taken whole or crushed and missed with a spoonful of liquid or soft food.
- Never discontinue your child's medication without consulting a doctor.

Special Considerations

- Your doctor may require periodic blood test to determine the therapeutic level of Phenobarbital for your child, and to screen for liver and blood problems.
- Please notify all other physicians or dentists that your child is taking Phenobarbital.

Side Effects

The most common: drowsiness, sleepiness, dizziness, lack of coordination, irritability, headache, upset stomach.

Serious: severe drowsiness or confusion, an allergic reaction such as a rash, hives, facial swelling, trouble breathing. If you experience a serious side effect, contact your doctor or go to the nearest ER immediately.

Procedure for getting a prescription

- If you require a prescription refill before your next scheduled appointment, please call the clinical services office at (313) 832-1100 ext. 220. The prescription can be called into the pharmacy.
- The Detroit Institute for Children is not open on weekends or holidays. The clinical services office is open from 8 a.m.-5 pm 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.
- Please have your pharmacy phone number available for prescription refills.

Your child's doctor is:

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

***Poison Control Center:
1-800-764-7661 (1-800-POISON-1)***