

## Patient information

# Clopidogrel

The information in this leaflet is intended for general guidance. If your doctor has given you different advice, follow his/her instructions. If you are unsure or have any questions about the information given to you please speak to your pharmacist or doctor.

Your GP may give you the same tablets known by a different name (the brand name) on repeat prescriptions – if unsure check with your GP or pharmacist.

### **Why have I been prescribed Clopidogrel?**

Clopidogrel is used to thin the blood and reduce the risk of blood clots forming. It has been shown in several drug trials to reduce the risk of heart attacks as its action is targeted at minimizing the formation of blood clots. It can also be used to reduce the risk of developing blood clots in cardiac stents.

### **How does Clopidogrel work?**

Clopidogrel works on blood cells called platelets that are used to form clots. It makes platelets less sticky and prevents clots forming in the blood vessels.

### **What is the dosage of Clopidogrel and how often do I take it?**

Clopidogrel is taken once a day and the usual dose is 75mg.

### **How long will I need to take Clopidogrel?**

The recommended duration for taking Clopidogrel is between 1 and 12 months depending on your diagnosis and treatment. You may need to continue taking this medication long term as an alternative to aspirin, please follow your doctor's advice.

## **Most common side effects**

- bruising and bleeding
- indigestion
- abdominal discomfort
- diarrhoea

If you are concerned please contact your doctor.

## **What if I miss a dose?**

You should try to take your Clopidogrel at the same time each day. If you forget to take it within 12 hours of when you were due to take it, then you can take the missed dose immediately.

Do not take a double dose. If it is over 12 hours, do not take the dose you have missed and take the usual prescribed dose the next day.

## **Discharge advice**

If you have any further questions please speak to your pharmacist or nurse before discharge.

If you want any further written information on your diagnosis, in particular relation to 'heart attack' and 'acute coronary syndrome', there is a booklet provided by the British Heart Foundation entitled 'Heart Attack and Rehabilitation – including information on acute coronary syndrome'. This booklet is available on the Cardiac Care Unit and the Cardiac Ward G3, please ask a member of the nursing team for a copy if you have not received one before discharge.

*If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the hospital website [www.wsh.nhs.uk](http://www.wsh.nhs.uk) and click on the link, or visit the disabledgo website:*

*<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust/main>*