

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

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## *Patient Drug Education*

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### **ASPIRIN 81 MG TAB EC**

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#### **USES:**

This medication is used to reduce fever and relieve minor to moderate pain from conditions such as muscle aches, toothaches, menstrual cramps, and headaches. It may also be used to reduce inflammation and swelling in conditions such as arthritis. Aspirin is known as a salicylate and a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that works by blocking a certain natural substance in your body to reduce pain and swelling. Aspirin is also used in low doses, alone or in combination with other medications, as a blood thinner to prevent blood clots after surgery on clogged arteries (e.g., bypass surgery, carotid endarterectomy) and to reduce the risk of stroke or heart attack.

#### **HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:**

**HOW TO USE:** If you are taking this medication for self-treatment, carefully read the product label to make sure this product is correct for you or your child. You should also read the product label to find recommendations on the maximum number of tablets you can take in a 24-hour period, and the maximum length of self-treatment before seeking medical advice. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about this medication. If you are taking this medication under the instruction of your doctor, take it exactly as prescribed. Take this medication by mouth as directed by your doctor, or, if you are self-treating, follow instructions on the package label. Drink a full glass of water (8 ounces or 240 milliliters) with it unless your doctor tells you otherwise. Do not lie down for at least 30 minutes after you have taken this drug. If stomach upset occurs while taking this medication, you may take it with food or milk. If you are taking a sustained-release, enteric-coated, or long-acting aspirin tablet, be sure to swallow it whole. Do not crush, chew or break the tablet. Doing so can destroy the action of the drug and increase side effects. The dosage and length of aspirin treatment are based on your medical condition and response to therapy. Consult your doctor before treating a child younger than 12. This medication should not be taken for self-treatment of pain for longer than 10 days in adults or 5 days in children. This drug should not be used in adults or children for fever persisting longer than 3 days or for sore throat pain lasting longer than 2 days. No more than 5 doses of this medication should be given to a child for pain or fever in a 24-hour period. Do not take more medication or take it for longer than recommended above unless directed by your doctor. Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions. If you are taking this medication for self-treatment of headache, seek immediate medical attention if you also have slurred speech, weakness on one side of the body, or sudden vision changes. Before using this drug, consult a doctor or pharmacist if you have headaches caused by head injury, coughing, or bending, or if you have a headache with persistent/severe vomiting, fever, and stiff neck. If you are taking this medication on an as needed basis (not on a regular schedule), remember that pain medications work best if they are used as the first signs of pain occur. If you wait until the pain has significantly worsened, the medicine may not work as well. Consult your doctor if your condition persists or worsens (e.g., new or unusual symptoms, redness/swelling of the painful area, pain/fever that does not go away or gets worse).

#### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

Upset stomach and heartburn may occur. If either of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly. Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: easy bruising/bleeding, difficulty hearing, ringing in the ears, change in the amount of urine, persistent or severe nausea/vomiting, unexplained tiredness, dizziness, dark urine, yellowing of the eyes/skin. This drug may rarely cause serious bleeding from the stomach/intestine or other areas of the body. If you notice any of the following unlikely but very serious side effects, seek immediate medical attention: black/tarry stools, persistent or severe stomach/abdominal pain, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, slurred speech, weakness on one side of the body, sudden vision changes or severe headache. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is unlikely, but seek immediate medical attention if it occurs. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction may include: rash, itching, swelling, severe dizziness, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **PRECAUTIONS:**

Before taking aspirin, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other salicylates (e.g., choline salicylate); or to other pain relievers or fever reducers (acetaminophen, NSAIDs such as ibuprofen, naproxen); or to tartrazine dye; or if you have any other allergies. If you have any of the following health problems, consult your doctor or pharmacist before using this medication: kidney or liver disease, diabetes, stomach problems (e.g., ulcers, heartburn, stomach pain), bleeding/blood-clotting disorders (e.g., hemophilia, vitamin K deficiency, low platelet count), asthma, growths in the nose (nasal polyps), gout, anemia, certain enzyme deficiencies (pyruvate kinase or G6-PD deficiency). This medicine may cause stomach bleeding. Daily use of alcohol and tobacco, especially when combined with this product, may increase your risk for this side effect. Limit alcoholic beverages, and stop smoking. Check with your doctor or pharmacist for more information. Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking this medication. If you have had oral surgery or had your tonsils removed in the last 7 days, do not use chewable tablets, effervescent tablets, or aspirin in crushed tablets or gargles. If you have congestive heart failure or are on a sodium-restricted diet, do not take sodium-containing buffered aspirin, effervescent aspirin tablets, or aspirin powders. The elderly may be more sensitive to the side effects of the drug, especially stomach ulcers. Aspirin is not recommended for use during pregnancy. Consult your doctor before using this medication if you are or think you may be pregnant. Tell your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while taking this medication. Do not use this medication during the last 3 months of pregnancy because of possible harm to the unborn baby or problems during delivery. Aspirin passes into breast milk and may have harmful effects on the nursing infant. Breast-feeding while using this drug is not recommended. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

#### **DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

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If you are taking this medication under your doctor's direction, your healthcare professionals (e.g., doctor or pharmacist) may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for it. Before you start taking this medication for self-treatment, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you are also using any prescription and nonprescription medications. Do not stop or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with your doctor or pharmacist first. This drug should not be used with the following medications because very serious interactions may occur: ketorolac, mifepristone. If you are currently using any of these medications, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting aspirin. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription products you may use, especially of: acetazolamide, "blood thinners" (e.g., warfarin, heparin), NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen, naproxen), corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone), methotrexate, oral bisphosphonates (e.g., alendronate), certain medications for gout (e.g., probenecid, sulfapyrazone), diabetes drugs (e.g., chlorpropamide, glyburide), anti-seizure drugs (e.g., phenytoin, valproic acid), high blood pressure drugs (e.g., ACE inhibitors such as captopril, beta blockers such as metoprolol), SSRI antidepressants (e.g., fluoxetine, sertraline), "water pills" (diuretics such as furosemide, spironolactone), pemetrexed, herbal medications such as ginkgo biloba. Before using this product, consult your doctor if your child has recently received certain live vaccines (e.g., varicella vaccine, live influenza vaccine). Check all prescription and nonprescription medicine labels carefully since many medications contain pain relievers/fever reducers known as NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen, naproxen). To prevent an overdose of aspirin, read the labels carefully before taking other pain relievers or cold products to make sure they do not contain aspirin. Ask your pharmacist about the safe use of these products. This medication may interfere with certain laboratory tests (including certain urine sugar tests), possibly causing false test results. Make sure laboratory personnel and your doctors know you are taking this medication.

## **NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others. If you use this medication regularly or at high doses, laboratory and/or medical tests (e.g., liver and kidney function tests, blood count, salicylate level) may be performed to monitor your progress or check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details. There are many different dosage forms for aspirin products. Some have special coatings or contain buffers, and some are long-acting. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for recommendations on the best product for you.

## **MISSED DOSE:**

If you are prescribed this drug on a regular schedule (not just "as needed") and you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

## **STORAGE:**

Store at room temperature between 59-86 degrees F (between 15-30 degrees C) away from moisture and light. Do not store above 104 degrees F (40 degrees C). Do not store in the bathroom. Do not use any aspirin product that has a strong vinegar-like smell. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.