

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

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## *Patient Drug Education*

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### **CLOTRIMAZOLE 1% CREAM**

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#### **USES:**

This medication is used to treat vaginal yeast infections. Clotrimazole reduces vaginal burning, itching, and discharge that may occur with this condition. This medication is an azole antifungal. It works by stopping the growth of yeast (fungus) that causes the infection.

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

**HOW TO USE:** Read the Patient Information Leaflet available with this product. Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions. If you are pregnant, follow your doctor's instructions on how to use the applicator to insert this medication. Use the medication once daily, usually at bedtime or as directed by your doctor. Wash your hands before using the medication. If using the cream, use the disposable applicator. Follow the package instructions on how to fill the disposable applicator with the cream. Lie on your back with your knees toward your chest. Insert one applicator full of cream into the vagina as far as it will comfortably go. Slowly press the plunger of the applicator all the way down to apply the cream. If you have itching/burning around the outside of the vagina (vulva), apply some cream to that area as well. If using the vaginal tablet or combination pack, you may use either the applicator or your finger to insert the tablet. Unwrap the tablet before use. Follow the package instructions on how to fill the applicator with a vaginal tablet. Lie on your back with your knees toward your chest. Insert one applicator with a tablet into the vagina as far as it will comfortably go. Slowly press the plunger of the applicator all the way down to release the tablet. If you have itching/burning around the outside of the vagina (vulva), apply the cream to that area. After use, throw away the applicator and wash your hands. Continue to use this medication every day for the full time prescribed, even if symptoms disappear after a few days or if your menstrual period starts. Stopping the medication too soon may allow the yeast infection to return. Do not use tampons or douches while using this medication. Unscented sanitary napkins may be used for your menstrual period or to protect your clothing from leakage of the medication. Inform your doctor if your condition persists or returns 1 week after completing the treatment.

#### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

Burning/itching/pain in the vagina/urinary opening or lower abdominal cramps may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly. Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. 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 using clotrimazole, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other azole antifungal agents (e.g., butoconazole, fluconazole); or to mineral oil; or if you have any other allergies. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: diabetes, immune system problems, 4 or more vaginal yeast infections per year. Tell your doctor immediately if you have fever, chills, flu-like symptoms, or stomach/abdominal pain. This may mean you have a more serious infection and need another treatment. Ask your doctor whether you can have sexual intercourse while using this product. Avoid using a diaphragm, cervical cap, or latex condoms for birth control while using this product and for 3 days after treatment is finished. Some ingredients in these medicines may damage these products, possibly causing them to break. Use other forms of birth control such as polyurethane condoms. This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. It is not known whether this drug passes into breast milk. Breast-feeding while using this drug is not recommended. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

#### **DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

Your healthcare professionals (e.g., doctor or pharmacist) may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for it. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with them first. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: oral antibiotics, corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone), drugs that suppress the immune system (e.g., cyclosporine).

#### **NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others. Laboratory and/or medical tests (e.g., KOH smear, culture) may be performed periodically to monitor your progress. Consult your doctor for more details. Dry the genital area thoroughly after showering, bathing, or swimming. Avoid wearing tight jeans, nylon underwear, pantyhose, a wet bathing suit, or damp/sweaty exercise clothes for long periods. Wear cotton underwear, and change your underwear daily. This may help to prevent the growth of yeast. If your sexual partner experiences symptoms, they should contact their doctor immediately.

#### **MISSED DOSE:**

If you miss a dose, use 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.

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## **STORAGE:**

Store the cream at room temperature between 59-86 degrees F (15-30 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.