

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

---

## *Patient Drug Education*

---

---

### ***GUAIFENESIN-DEXTROMETHORPH TAB***

---

#### **USES:**

This combination medication is used to relieve coughs caused by the common cold, bronchitis, and other breathing illnesses. Guaifenesin belongs to a class of drugs known as expectorants. It works by thinning and loosening mucus in the airways, clearing congestion, and making breathing easier. Dextromethorphan belongs to a class of drugs known as cough suppressants. It acts on a part of the brain (cough center) to reduce the urge to cough.

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

**HOW TO USE:** Take this medication by mouth with or without food, usually twice daily or as directed by your doctor. Swallow the long-acting tablets whole with a full glass of water (8 ounces or 240 milliliters). Drink plenty of fluids while taking this medication. Fluids will help to break up mucus and clear congestion. Do not crush, chew, or break the tablets. Doing so can destroy the long action of the drug and may increase side effects. Dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy. Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, take it at the same times each day. If your condition persists or worsens after 7 days, or if you think you may have a serious medical condition, seek immediate medical attention.

#### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

Dizziness, drowsiness, upset stomach, and nausea may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly. 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 this drug, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to guaifenesin or dextromethorphan; or if you have any other allergies. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: breathing problems (e.g., asthma, emphysema), liver problems. This drug may make you dizzy or drowsy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Limit alcoholic beverages. Caution is advised when using this drug in people who are unconscious or confined to a bed. This medication should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. This medication passes into breast milk. Though there have been no reports of harm to nursing infants, 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. This drug should not be used with the following medications because very serious interactions may occur: MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, isocarboxazid, linezolid, moclobemide, phenelzine, procarbazine, selegiline, tranylcypromine), epinephrine for low blood pressure, metrizamide, sibutramine, cabergoline, pergolide, halofantrine, pimozide. If you are currently using any of these medications listed above, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting this medication. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have stopped taking MAO inhibitors within the last 2 weeks. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use.

#### **NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others.

#### **MISSED DOSE:**

If 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 (15-30 degrees C) away from heat and light. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.