

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

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## *Patient Drug Education*

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### **NEXIUM 40 MG CAPSULE**

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#### **USES:**

Esomeprazole works by blocking acid production in the stomach. This medication is known as a proton pump inhibitor (PPI). It is used to treat acid-related stomach and throat (esophagus) problems (e.g., acid reflux or GERD, erosive esophagitis). Decreasing excess stomach acid can help relieve symptoms such as heartburn, difficulty swallowing, persistent cough, and trouble sleeping. It can also prevent serious acid damage to your digestive system (e.g., ulcers, cancer of the esophagus). This medication may also be used in combination with antibiotics to treat certain types of intestinal ulcers caused by bacterial infection.

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

HOW TO USE: Take this medication by mouth usually once daily at least 1 hour before a meal, or as directed by your doctor. Do not crush or chew the capsule(s). Swallow the capsule(s) whole. If you have difficulty swallowing this medication whole, the capsule may be opened and the contents sprinkled onto soft food (cold applesauce or yogurt), or emptied into a small amount of water, orange juice, or apple juice and taken as directed. Rinse the container with an additional small amount of liquid and drink the contents to make sure the entire dose is taken. Do not chew the food/medication mixture or prepare a supply in advance; this may destroy the drug and/or increase side effects. If needed, antacids may be taken along with this medication. The dosage and length of treatment is based on your medical condition and response to therapy. Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. Remember to use it at the same time each day. Continue to take this medication for the prescribed length of treatment even if you are feeling better. Inform your doctor if your condition persists or worsens.

#### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

Headache, diarrhea, nausea, gas, stomach pain, constipation, or dry mouth 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 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 highly unlikely but very serious side effects occur: chest pain, severe stomach/abdominal pain, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, black stools, yellowing of the eyes/skin, signs of vitamin B-12 deficiency with long-term (over 3 years) treatment (e.g., unusual weakness, sore tongue, numbness or tingling of the hands/feet). Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: mental/mood changes (e.g., agitation, confusion), change in the amount of urine. A serious allergic reaction to this drug is unlikely, but seek immediate medical attention if it occurs. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction include: rash, itching, swelling, dizziness, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **PRECAUTIONS:**

Before taking esomeprazole, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to similar drugs (e.g., lansoprazole, omeprazole); or if you have any other allergies. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: severe liver disease, other stomach problems (e.g., tumors). Some symptoms may actually be signs of a more serious condition. Tell your doctor immediately if you have: heartburn combined with lightheadedness/sweating/dizziness, chest pain or shoulder/jaw pain (especially with trouble breathing), pain spreading to arms/neck/shoulders, unexplained weight loss. This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. Based on information for similar drugs, this medication may pass into breast milk. Breast-feeding while using this drug is not recommended. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

#### **DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

This drug should not be used with the following medication because very serious interactions may occur: atazanavir. If you are currently using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting esomeprazole. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: cilostazol, warfarin. Esomeprazole can decrease the effectiveness of certain drugs which require stomach acid in order to be absorbed. Before using this medication, consult your doctor or pharmacist on how to manage such a potential interaction if you are taking the following drugs: ampicillin,azole antifungals (e.g., ketoconazole, itraconazole), iron supplements. Based on information for similar drugs, esomeprazole may increase the amount of digoxin that is absorbed into your blood. Consult your doctor or pharmacist for details if you also take digoxin. Do not start or stop any medicine without doctor or pharmacist approval.

#### **NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others. Laboratory and/or medical tests may be performed periodically to monitor your progress or check for side effects.

#### **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 at room temperature (77 degrees F or 25 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Brief storage between 59-86 degrees F (15-30 degrees C) is permitted. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.