



# Clopidogrel to prevent blood clots

This leaflet is for parents and carers about how to use this medicine in children. Our information sometimes differs from that provided by the manufacturers, because their information is usually aimed at adults. Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

Do not stop clopidogrel without talking to your doctor first because it is used to prevent a serious condition.

## Name of medicine

**Generic name:** Clopidogrel

**Brand name:** Plavix


## Why is it important for my child to take this medicine?

Blood clots can form in any part of the body. They may block blood vessels, leading to complications. Clopidogrel stops platelets in the blood from joining together to form clots. Your child may need clopidogrel if they have a history of blood clots or if they are at risk of clots because of a medical procedure or condition.

## What is clopidogrel available as?

**Tablets:** 75 mg, 300 mg (may contain lactose or sorbitol)

**Liquid medicine:** 5 mg in 5 mL, 25 mg in 5 mL, or 75 mg in 5 mL (these may contain lactose or sorbitol)

 Liquid medicine comes in different strengths. Make a note of which one you usually have, and check that you have been given the right one each time.


## When should I give clopidogrel?

Clopidogrel is usually given **once** each day. This can be in the morning or the evening


Give the medicine at about the same time each day so that this becomes part of your child's daily routine, which will help you to remember.

## How much should I give?

Your healthcare team will work out the amount of medicine (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label.

 It is important that you follow the instructions about how much to give.

## How should I give it?

 Your child should not drink grapefruit juice as the clopidogrel will not work as well to prevent clots.



**Tablets** should be swallowed with a glass of water, juice or squash. Your child should not chew the tablet.

You can crush the tablet (or part of a tablet) and mix it with a small amount of soft food such as yogurt or jam. Make sure your child swallows it all straight away, without chewing.

You may have been told to dissolve a tablet (or part of a tablet) in water. You will be told how much water to dissolve the tablet in, and how much of the mixture to give your child. Use a new tablet each time and stir the mixture thoroughly. Measure out the right amount into an oral syringe. If you are not sure how to do this, ask your pharmacist to show you. Pour any unused mixture into a paper towel and throw in the bin (not down the sink). Throw away any part tablets that are not used.



**Liquid medicine:** Shake the medicine well. Measure out the right amount using an oral syringe. You can get these from your pharmacist. Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the right amount.

## When should the medicine start to work?

The medicine should start working straight away, although you will not see any difference in your child.

## What if my child is sick (vomits)?

- If your child is sick less than 30 minutes after having a dose of clopidogrel, give them the same dose again.
- If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after having a dose of clopidogrel, you do not need to give them another dose. Wait until the next normal dose.
- If your child is sick again, seek advice from your healthcare team. They will decide what to do based on your child's condition and the medicine involved.

## What if I forget to give it?

- If you remember up to 12 hours after you should have given the dose, give the missed dose.
- If you remember after this time, do not give the missed dose. Wait until the next normal dose.

## What if I think I have given too much?

You are unlikely to do harm if you give an extra dose of clopidogrel by mistake. However, if you notice any signs of bleeding or you are concerned that you may have given too much, contact your child's healthcare team for advice.


## Are there any possible side-effects?


We use medicines to make our children better but sometimes they cause effects that we don't want (side-effects).


## Side-effects you must do something about



If your child suddenly gets a severe headache, call for an ambulance or take them to hospital straight away, in case they have bleeding in the brain. Tell the health professionals that your child is taking clopidogrel.

 If your child gets flu-like symptoms, a sore throat or unusual bleeding or bruising, contact your health professional, as there may be a problem with your child's blood.

 If your child seems to bruise more easily or bleeding doesn't stop as quickly as you would expect, contact your health professional straight away, as there may be a problem with your child's blood.

 If your child coughs up blood, or there is blood in their urine (wee), poo or vomit, contact your health professional.

### Other side-effects you need to know about

- Your child may get diarrhoea or constipation, although this should improve within about 2 weeks.
- They may feel sick (nausea) or be sick (vomit), have indigestion or stomach pain. Contact your child's healthcare team if these effects become a problem.
- Your child may get a rash.
- They may get nosebleeds, their gums may bleed or they may bruise easily, and girls may get heavy bleeding during their period. Contact your healthcare team if you are concerned.

Your child may sometimes get side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, contact your child's healthcare team. You can report any suspected side-effects to the UK safety scheme: [MHRA Yellow Card](#).


More information on side-effects can be found in the [Medicines for Children leaflet](#).

### Can other medicines be given at the same time as clopidogrel?

- You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol unless your health professional has told you not to.
- You should **not** give your child any medicine containing ibuprofen, unless your health professional has told you to.
- Clopidogrel should not be taken with some medicines that you get on prescription. Tell your child's healthcare team about any other medicines your child is taking before giving clopidogrel.
- Check with child's healthcare team before giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal and complementary medicines.

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### Is there anything else I need to know about this medicine?

 Do not stop clopidogrel without talking to your healthcare team first, because blood clots can cause serious issues.

- Liquid medicine comes in different strengths. Make a note of which one you usually have, and check that you have been given the right one each time.
- If your child is going to the dentist or is having surgery, tell the dentist and healthcare team that your child is taking clopidogrel.

### General advice about medicines

- If you are not sure a medicine is working, contact your child's healthcare team but continue to give the medicine as usual in the meantime. Do not give extra doses, as you may do harm.
- Only give this medicine to your child. Never give it to anyone else, even if their condition appears to be the same, as this could do harm. If you think someone else may have taken the medicine by accident, contact a health professional straight away.
- Make sure that you always have enough medicine. Order a new prescription at least 2 weeks before you will run out.
- Make sure that the medicine you have at home has not reached the 'use by' date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of.

### Where should I keep this medicine?

- The liquid medicine does not keep for long once it has been opened. Write the date that you start it on the bottle and make sure you follow the instructions on the bottle about how long you can keep it.
- Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge.
- Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.
- Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

### Who to contact for more information

Your child's healthcare team will be able to give you more information about clopidogrel and about other medicines used to prevent blood clots. You can also get useful information from:

England: NHS 111 Tel 111 [nhs.uk](#)

Scotland: NHS 24 Tel 111 [nhs24.scot](#)

Wales: NHS 111 Wales Tel 111 [111.wales.nhs.uk](#)

Northern Ireland: NI Direct [nidirect.gov.uk](#)

[www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk](http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk)