

Understanding your Medications:

Questions to ask your Healthcare
Provider about Medication Use



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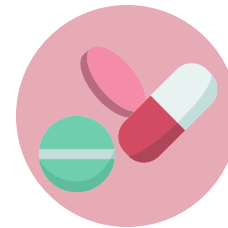
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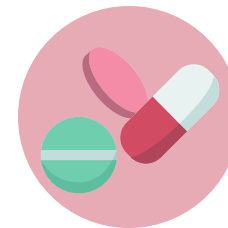
Types of Questions

Questions to consider asking your healthcare providers when it comes to starting new medications, or continuing, changing, or stopping your current medications.



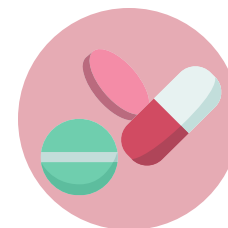
What is It?

General medication questions



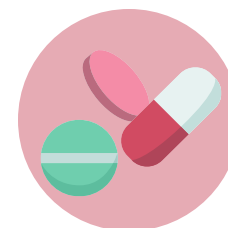
How to take it?

Questions about medication administration



How effective is it?

Questions about medication effectiveness.



What are the possible risks?

Questions about side effects and safety



Convenience

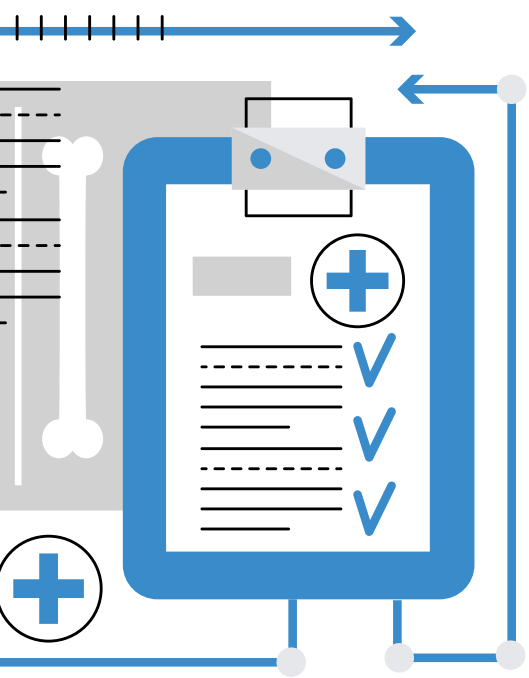
Questions about cost



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What is it?

General Questions



What is this medication for?



Why am I taking it?



How long has the medication been on the market (e.g. in North America)?



What does it do for my body? What is the intended effect?



Is this a temporary or long-term medication?

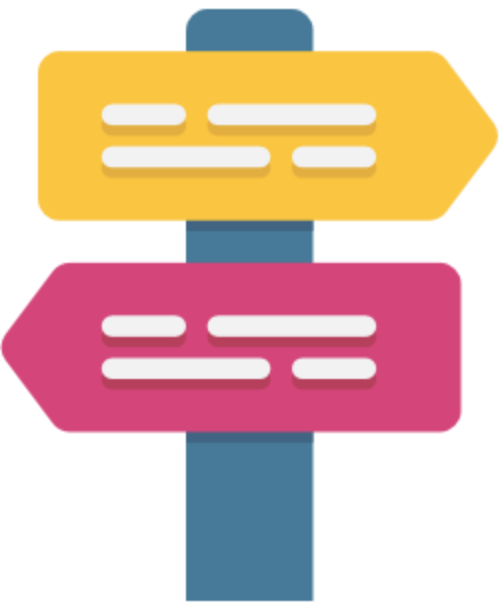


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What is it?

Questions about Alternative Medications



Are there other medications that can be used for the same symptoms?



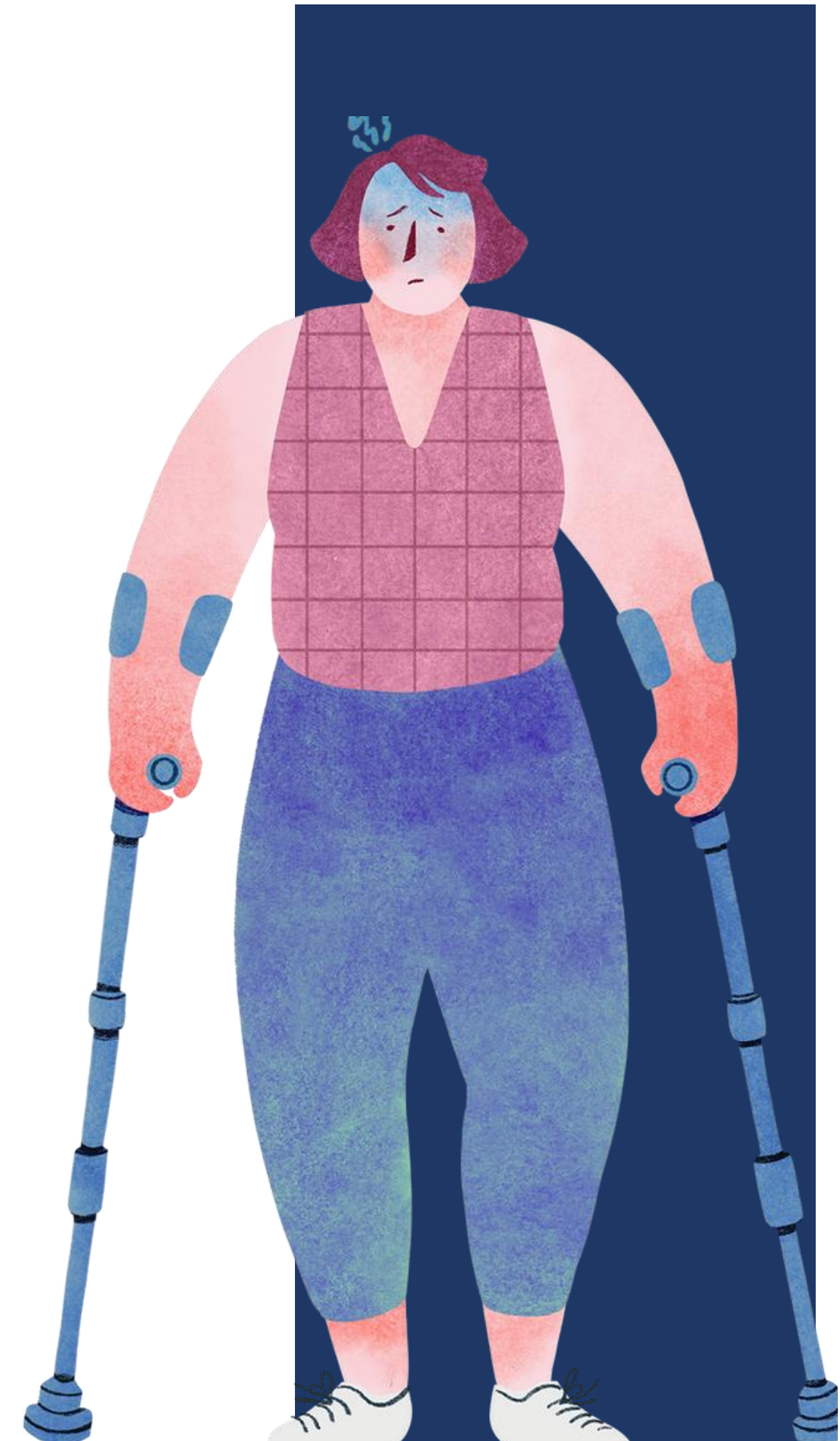
Can I change between the generic and brand name of this medication?



What alternatives are there to this medication?



What similar medications have been around for a while?



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What is it?

Questions about Support



Where can I find more information on this medication?



Will there be a follow-up appointment specific to this medication?



Are other people with spinal cord injury/dysfunction taking this medication?



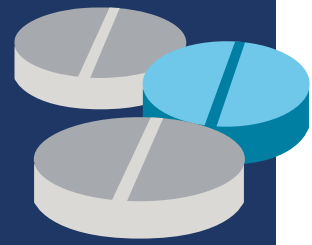
Am I able to get a second opinion about taking this medication?



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How do I take it?

Administration



How do I take this medication?



Does it need to be taken under specific conditions (i.e., with food, morning or evening, as needed, routine, multiple times per day)?



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How do I take it?

Dose Reduction



When stopping a medication that needs to have the dose tapered, what is the process of weaning off this medication?



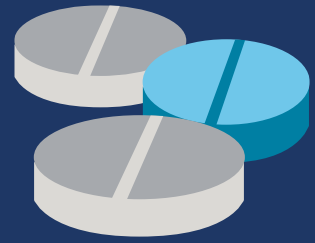
When should I ask my healthcare provider to discuss if the medication can be stopped or have the dose reduced?



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How do I take it?



Timing



How long will I need to take this medication?



What might I do if I miss a dose of the medication?



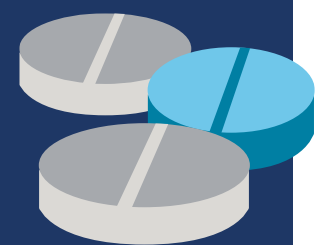
What happens if I take my medication and vomit?



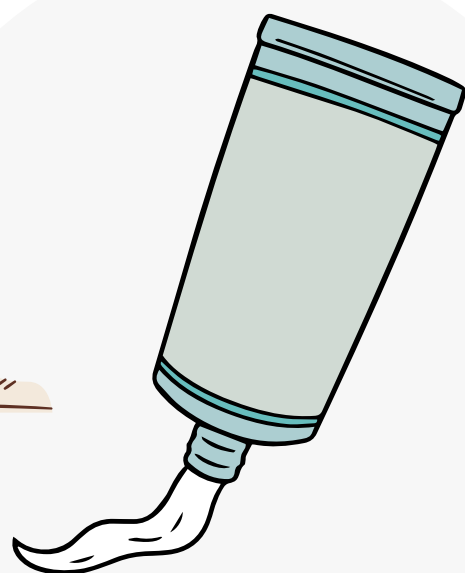
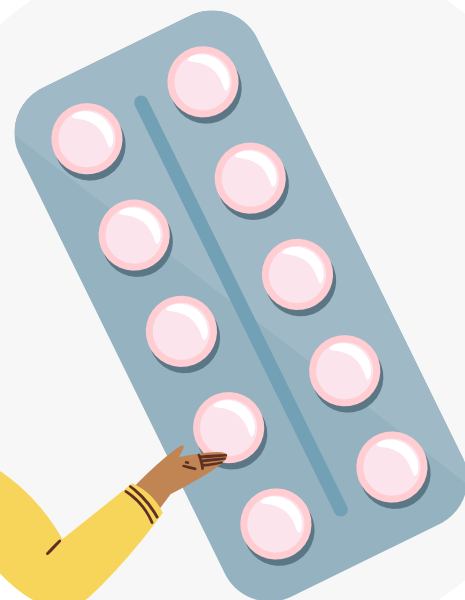
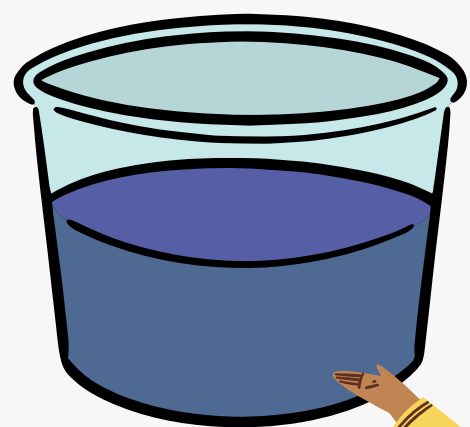
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How do I take it?



Route



What is the best route of administration that aligns with my abilities?



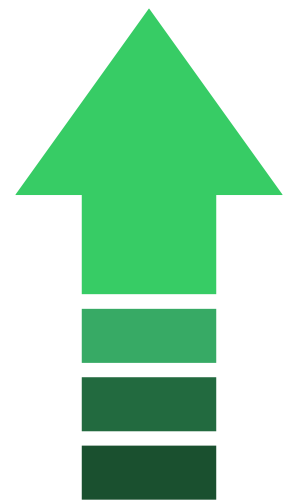
Is there another way to take this medication?



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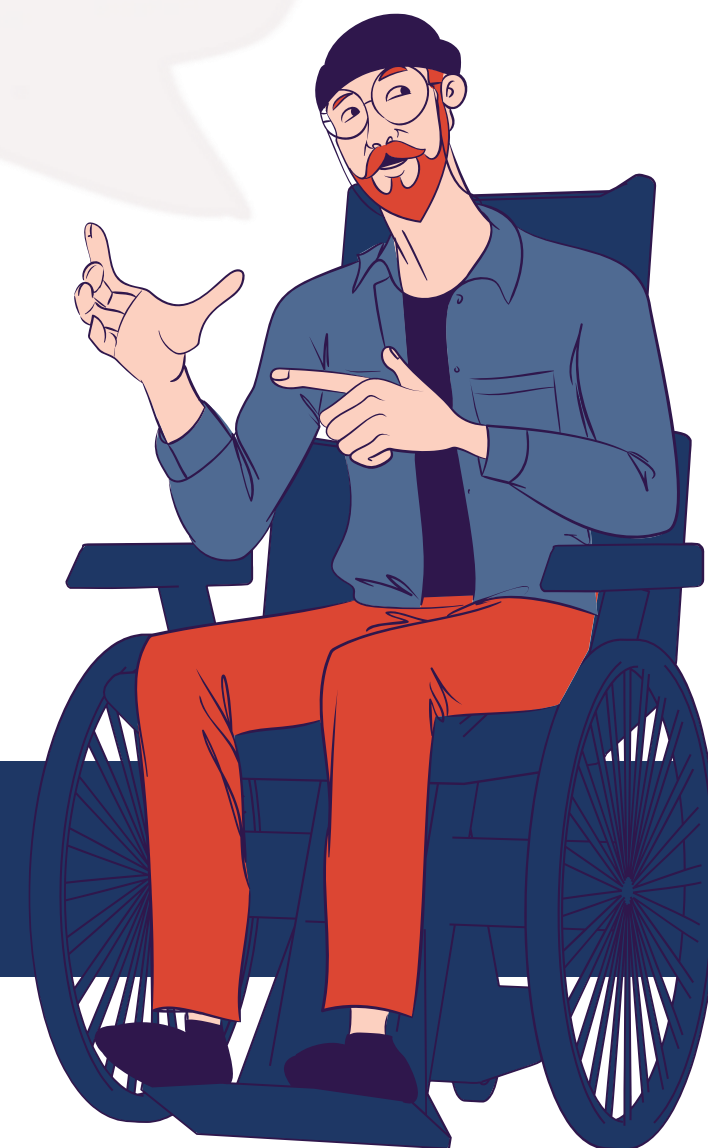


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How effective is it?

- How will I know if this medication is working?
- How long will I need to take this medication before I should see results?
- If this medication is no longer working, can I change the dose or to a different medication?



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What are the possible risks?

Side Effects



What are the expected side effects (short term and long term)?



How do I track side effects?



Which side effects warrant needing emergency medical attention?



Can I stop this medication if the side effects are undesirable?



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What are the possible risks?

Safety



Will this medication interact with any of my other medications?



What are the negative and positive effects (risks/benefits) of taking the medication on an frequent basis?



Is there an alternative to this medication with potentially fewer side effects?



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What are the possible risks?

Withdrawal



Will I experience withdrawal effects if I stop this medication?



How do I manage the withdrawal effects?



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What is the Cost?



What is the cost of this medication?



Can this medication be covered by my insurance?



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References

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