

NAME: _____

Brand change: Phenobarbitone tablets

(Say fee-noh-barb-a-tone)

Phenobarbitone is mostly used to control epilepsy (seizures). From June 2023, a new brand of tablets will be available.

Many people don't have problems when changing medicine brands. For others, the change may affect how their body absorbs the medicine. This can cause the level of phenobarbitone in their blood to change and may lead to side effects or seizures.

Blood tests and monitoring

To reduce your risk of side effects or seizures, your doctor will check your level before and after the brand change.



Your doctor should contact you to arrange these appointments.



They will discuss the medicine change with you.



You will need 4 blood tests – 2 before and 2 after the brand change.



Ask your doctor which lab to go to for your blood tests.



Note

You shouldn't have to pay any extra fees for these appointments or tests.

	Before brand change		Stop your old tablets and start taking the new brand	After brand change	
	Test 1: 3 weeks before	Test 2: Within the week before		Test 3: 4 to 10 days after your first dose	Test 4: 1 month after
Date:					

Use the plan above to record the dates for your blood tests.



Driving after the brand change

Phenobarbitone can make you sleepy, so be careful when driving or using machinery. Discuss with your healthcare provider.



It's important to keep taking phenobarbitone

Suddenly stopping epilepsy medicines can cause an increase in seizures. If you have any questions or concerns, your healthcare provider can discuss them with you.

Contact your healthcare provider straight away if you notice any of these symptoms:

- increased seizures
- feeling sleepy or sleep problems
- headache
- unusual behaviour or thinking, mood changes, agitation
- dizziness, nausea (feeling sick)
- muscle weakness, walking or handwriting problems
- confusion or trouble concentrating.

Your doctor may need to adjust your dose.



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