

FAMCICLOVIR

Famciclovir is an antiviral medicine used to treat viral infections, such as cold sores and shingles.

The following table is to be completed by a health practitioner (e.g. doctor, pharmacist, nurse, midwife):

Reason for antiviral:	
Start date/ planned duration:	
My doctor's name:	
Doctor's contact details:	

How do I take famciclovir?

- Famciclovir can be taken with or without food.
- Start taking famciclovir as soon as possible, once prescribed by your doctor.
- To make sure famciclovir works the best it can, it is important to take this medicine as prescribed by your doctor and to not miss doses.

What do I need to be aware of before I take famciclovir?

- Discuss any **pre-existing medical conditions** with your doctor.
- Discuss **other medicines you are currently taking or plan to start taking** (including herbal and over-the-counter medicines) with your doctor and/or pharmacist. This is to ensure famciclovir is safe to take together with your current medicines.
- Pregnancy:** There is limited information describing the use of famciclovir in pregnancy. Discuss with your doctor if you are currently pregnant or intend to become pregnant during your antibiotic course.
- Breastfeeding:** There is limited information describing the use of famciclovir in breastfeeding. Discuss with your doctor if you are currently breastfeeding.

The information contained in this brochure is for educational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for consultation with a doctor or health care professional. Ask your pharmacist or doctor if you have any additional questions or would like more detailed information about this medicine. **Last reviewed:** 23rd January 2024 | **Next review** by February 2027.

Acknowledgement: The Royal Melbourne Hospital Guidance Group Project Officers

Common side effects of famciclovir:

- Famciclovir is generally well tolerated in most people.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and headache; usually mild and improves over a few days.

Rare reactions and/or side effects of famciclovir to be aware of:

- **Allergic reactions** such as a rash, itch, blisters or red skin spots; stop taking this medicine and see your doctor.
- **Signs of a serious allergic reaction**, such as difficulty breathing or swelling of the face, eyes or lips; call for an ambulance immediately OR present to the accident and emergency department at your nearest hospital immediately.
- Famciclovir may make you feel **light-headed and worsen your ability to concentrate**. If you are feeling these symptoms, do not drive or use tools or machinery. Drinking alcohol may also worsen these effects.
- **Changes in mood or behaviour**. Symptoms may include confusion, anxiety, seeing or hearing things (such as hallucinations). This is more likely with high doses. See your doctor if these side effects occur.