

TRIMETHOPRIM

Trimethoprim is an antibiotic used to treat or prevent bacterial infections, most commonly bladder or urine infections. It will not work against viral infections such as colds or flu.

Reason for antibiotic:	
Planned duration:	
My doctor's name:	
Doctor's contact details:	

How do I take trimethoprim?

- Trimethoprim can be taken with or without food.
- Trimethoprim should be taken at **bedtime**.

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

- 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 trimethoprim is safe to take together with your current medicines.
- **Pregnancy:** This medicine is not usually used in pregnancy. Discuss with your doctor if you are currently pregnant or intend to become pregnant during your antibiotic course.
- **Breastfeeding:** This medicine is considered safe to use in breastfeeding. The breastfed infant should be monitored for diarrhoea, vomiting and skin rash.

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:** 28th November 2023 | **Next review** by December 2026.

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Common side effects of trimethoprim:

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

Rare reactions and/or side effects of trimethoprim 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.
- **Trimethoprim may increase the amount of potassium in your blood.** If you are on other medicines that also increase potassium, your doctor may want to check the amount of potassium in your blood with blood tests.
- **Changes in kidney function and/or reduced blood cells and folate in your body.** Signs of reduced blood cells include unexplained tiredness, shortness of breath when exercising, dizziness, bleeding, bruising or looking pale. During prolonged treatment (for example, longer than 2 weeks), your doctor may request a blood test to check your kidney function and the number of blood cells and folate in your body.