

## PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

### HISTAMINE<sub>2</sub>-RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS

**Cimetidine**  
**Famotidine**  
**Ranitidine**

Keep all medication out of reach of children

#### **ABOUT** your medicine

The medication decreases the amount of acid produced in the stomach. It is used to treat and prevent the recurrence of ulcers and other conditions where the stomach produces too much acid. It is also used in the management of heartburn and indigestion.

This medication is sometimes prescribed for other uses. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

#### **HOW** should I take the medicine?

The medication comes as a tablet to be taken by mouth. It can be taken with or without food. Follow the directions on your prescription label carefully, and ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain any part you do not understand. Take the medication exactly as directed.

You should not be taking the medication for more than 2 weeks unless you are instructed by your doctor to do so. Consult either the pharmacist or doctor if symptoms persist or recur after a course of treatment.

#### What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take double dose to make up for a missed dose.

#### What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

Although side-effects are not common, they can occur. These side-effects may go away during treatment as your body adjusts to the medicine. However, check with your doctor if any of the following side-effects continue or are bothersome.

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

Medicine	Side Effects
Cimetidine (Tagamet®)	Headache
Famotidine (Pepcid®)	Diarrhoea
Ranitidine (Zantac®)	Dizziness
	Constipation

Consult your doctor if you experience any unusual side effects when taking your medication

Stop taking the medication and call your doctor immediately if you have the following symptoms:

- Rash or hives
- Itching
- Difficulty in breathing or swallowing
- Mental confusion
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Yellow skin or eyes

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Before taking the medicine,

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to any medication.
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and non-prescription medications you are taking.
- Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had liver or kidney diseases.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.
- Avoid smoking and drinking alcohol as these may make your stomach produce extra acid and may keep the medicine from working properly.
- If you are also taking antacids, they should be taken 1-2 hours apart from your medication

Keep all medication out of reach of children

How should I **STORE** the medicine?

Keep the medication in an airtight container. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.

---

**National University Hospital**

5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074  
 Tel: (65) 6779 5555 Fax: (65) 6779 5678  
 Website: www.nuh.com.sg

Company Registration Number. 198500843R

The information provided in this publication is meant purely for educational purposes and may not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. You should seek the advice of your doctor or a qualified healthcare provider before starting any treatment or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical conditions.

Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

Keep all medication out of reach of children

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required