

## Package leaflet: Information for the patient

**Sildenafil HEC Pharm 25 mg film-coated tablets**  
**Sildenafil HEC Pharm 50 mg film-coated tablets**  
**Sildenafil HEC Pharm 100 mg film-coated tablets**

### Sildenafil

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What Sildenafil HEC is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Sildenafil HEC
3. How to take Sildenafil HEC
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Sildenafil HEC
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Sildenafil HEC is and what it is used for**

Sildenafil HEC contains the active substance sildenafil which belongs to a group of medicines called phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) inhibitors. It works by helping to relax the blood vessels in your penis, allowing blood to flow into your penis when you get sexually excited. Sildenafil will only help you to get an erection if you are sexually stimulated.

Sildenafil HEC is a treatment for adult men with erectile dysfunction, sometimes known as impotence. This is when a man cannot get, or keep a hard, erect penis suitable for sexual activity.

#### **2. What you need to know before you take Sildenafil HEC**

##### **Do not take Sildenafil HEC**

- If you are allergic to sildenafil or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- If you are taking medicines called nitrates, as the combination may lead to a dangerous fall in your blood pressure. Tell your doctor if you are taking any of these medicines which are often given for relief of angina pectoris (or “chest pain”). If you are not certain, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- If you are using any of the medicines known as nitric oxide donors such as amyl nitrite (“poppers”), as the combination may also lead to a dangerous fall in your blood pressure.
- If you are taking riociguat. This medicine is used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (i.e., high blood pressure in the lungs) and chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (i.e., high blood pressure in the lungs secondary to blood clots). PDE5 inhibitors, such as sildenafil have been shown to increase the hypotensive effects of this medicine. If you are taking riociguat or are unsure tell your doctor.
- If you have a severe heart or liver problem.

- If you have recently had a stroke or a heart attack, or if you have low blood pressure.
- If you have certain rare inherited eye diseases (such as retinitis pigmentosa).
- If you have ever had loss of vision due to non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION).

### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Sildenafil HEC

- If you have sickle cell anaemia (an abnormality of red blood cells), leukaemia (cancer of blood cells), multiple myeloma (cancer of bone marrow).
- If you have a deformity of your penis or Peyronie’s Disease.
- If you have problems with your heart. Your doctor should carefully check whether your heart can take the additional strain of having sex.
- If you currently have a stomach ulcer, or a bleeding problems (such as haemophilia).
- If you experience sudden decrease or loss of vision, stop taking Sildenafil HEC and contact your doctor immediately.
- if you are taking a medicine called ritonavir (for the treatment of HIV), you should not take Sildenafil HEC

You should not use Sildenafil HEC with any other oral or local treatments for erectile dysfunction.

You should not use Sildenafil HEC with treatments for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) containing sildenafil or any other PDE5 inhibitors.

You should not take Sildenafil HEC if you do not have erectile dysfunction.

You should not take Sildenafil HEC if you are a woman.

#### *Special considerations for patients with kidney or liver problems*

You should tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems. Your doctor may decide on a lower dose for you.

### **Children and adolescents**

Sildenafil HEC should not be given to individuals under the age of 18.

### **Other medicines and Sildenafil HEC**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Sildenafil HEC tablets may interfere with some medicines, especially those used to treat chest pain. In the event of a medical emergency, you should tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse that you have taken Sildenafil HEC and when you did. Do not take Sildenafil HEC with other medicines unless your doctor tells you that you can.

You should not take Sildenafil HEC if you are taking medicines called nitrates, as the combination of these medicines may lead to a dangerous fall in your blood pressure. Always tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are taking any of these medicines that are often used for the relief of angina pectoris (or “chest pain”).

You should not take Sildenafil HEC if you are using any of the medicines known as nitric oxide donors such as amyl nitrite (“poppers”) as the combination may also lead to a dangerous fall in your blood pressure.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are already taking riociguat.

If you are taking medicines known as protease inhibitors, such as for the treatment of HIV, your doctor may start you on the lowest dose (25 mg) of Sildenafil HEC.  
You should not take Sildenafil HEC if you are taking the protease inhibitor ritonavir (for the treatment of HIV).

Some patients who take alpha-blocker therapy for the treatment of high blood pressure or prostate enlargement may experience dizziness or light-headedness, which may be caused by low blood pressure upon sitting or standing up quickly. Certain patients have experienced these symptoms when taking Sildenafil HEC with alpha-blockers. This is most likely to happen within 4 hours after taking Sildenafil HEC. To reduce the chance that these symptoms might happen, you should be on a regular daily dose of your alpha-blocker before you start Sildenafil HEC. Your doctor may start you on a lower dose (25 mg) of Sildenafil HEC.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking medicines containing sacubitril/valsartan, used to treat heart failure.

#### **Sildenafil HEC with food and drink and alcohol**

Sildenafil HEC can be taken with or without food. However, you may find that Sildenafil HEC takes longer to start working if you take it with a heavy meal.

Drinking alcohol can temporarily impair your ability to get an erection. To get the maximum benefit from your medicine, you are advised not to drink excessive amounts of alcohol before taking Sildenafil HEC.

#### **Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility**

Sildenafil HEC is not indicated for use by women.

#### **Driving and using machines**

Sildenafil HEC can cause dizziness and can affect vision. You should be aware of how you react to Sildenafil HEC before you drive or use machinery.

#### **Sildenafil HEC contains lactose**

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, such as lactose, contact your doctor before taking Sildenafil HEC.

### **3. How to take Sildenafil HEC**

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. The recommended starting dose is 50 mg.

*You should not take Sildenafil HEC more than once a day.*

Do not take Sildenafil HEC film-coated tablets in combination with Sildenafil orodispersible tablets.

You should take Sildenafil HEC about one hour before you plan to have sex. Swallow the tablet whole with a glass of water.

If you feel that the effect of Sildenafil HEC is too strong or too weak, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Sildenafil HEC will only help you to get an erection if you are sexually stimulated. The amount of time Sildenafil HEC takes to work varies from person to person, but it normally takes between half an hour and one hour. You may find that Sildenafil HEC takes longer to work if you take it with a heavy meal.

If Sildenafil HEC does not help you to get an erection, or if your erection does not last long enough for you to complete sexual intercourse you should tell your doctor.

**If you take more Sildenafil HEC than you should:**

You may experience an increase in side effects and their severity. Doses above 100 mg do not increase the efficacy.

*You should not take more tablets than your doctor tells you to.*

Contact your doctor if you take more tablets than you should.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

#### **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects although not everybody gets them. The side effects reported in association with the use of Sildenafil HEC are usually mild to moderate and of a short duration.

**If you experience any of the following serious side effects stop taking Sildenafil HEC and seek medical help immediately:**

- An allergic reaction - this occurs **uncommonly** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)  
Symptoms include sudden wheeziness, difficulty in breathing or dizziness, swelling of the eyelids, face, lips or throat.
- Chest pains - this occurs **uncommonly**  
If this occurs during or after intercourse  
- Get in a semi-sitting position and try to relax.  
- **Do not use nitrates** to treat your chest pain.
- Prolonged and sometimes painful erections - this occurs **rarely** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)  
If you have an erection which lasts for more than 4 hours, you should contact a doctor immediately.
- A sudden decrease or loss of vision - this occurs **rarely**
- Serious skin reactions - this occurs **rarely**  
Symptoms may include severe peeling and swelling of the skin, blistering of the mouth, genitals and around the eyes, fever.
- Seizures or fits - this occurs **rarely**

**Other side effects:**

**Very common** (may affect more than 1 in 10 people): headache.

**Common** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people): nausea, facial flushing, hot flush (symptoms include a sudden feeling of heat in your upper body), indigestion, colour tinge to vision, blurred vision, visual disturbance, stuffy nose and dizziness.

**Uncommon** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people): vomiting, skin rash, eye irritation, bloodshot eyes /red eyes, eye pain, seeing flashes of light, visual brightness, light sensitivity, watery eyes, pounding heartbeat, rapid heartbeat, high blood pressure, low blood pressure, muscle pain, feeling sleepy, reduced sense of touch, vertigo, ringing in the ears, dry mouth, blocked or stuffy sinuses, inflammation of the lining of the nose (symptoms include runny nose, sneezing and stuffy nose), upper abdominal pain, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (symptoms include heartburn), presence of blood in urine, pain in the arms or legs, nosebleed, feeling hot and feeling tired.

**Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people): fainting, stroke, heart attack, irregular heartbeat, temporary decreased blood flow to parts of the brain, feeling of tightening of the throat, numb mouth, bleeding at the back of the eye, double vision, reduced sharpness of vision, abnormal sensation in the eye, swelling of the eye or eyelid, small particles or spots in your vision, seeing halos around lights, dilation of the pupil of the eye, discolouration of the white of the eye, penile bleeding, presence of blood in semen, dry nose, swelling of the inside of the nose, feeling irritable and sudden decrease or loss of hearing.

From post-marketing experience cases of unstable angina (a heart condition) and sudden death have been reported rarely. Of note, most, but not all, of the men who experienced these side effects had heart problems before taking this medicine. It is not possible to determine whether these events were directly related to sildenafil.

#### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via <to be completed nationally>. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

### **5. How to store Sildenafil HEC**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

This medicine does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

### **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

#### **What Sildenafil HEC contains**

- The active substance is sildenafil.

Each tablet contains 25 mg of sildenafil (as sildenafil citrate).

Each tablet contains 50 mg of sildenafil (as sildenafil citrate).

Each tablet contains 100 mg of sildenafil (as sildenafil citrate).

- The other ingredients are:

Tablet core: calcium hydrogen phosphate, microcrystalline cellulose PH102, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate

Film coat: hypromellose 2910 (15 MPA.S), hypromellose 2910 (5 MPA.S), lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide (E171), triacetin, polyethylene glycol 6000

**What Sildenafil HEC looks like and contents of the pack**

Sildenafil HEC Pharm 25 mg film-coated tablet: White or almost white round film-coated tablets, debossed with “L8” on one side and blank on the other side.

Sildenafil HEC Pharm 50 mg film-coated tablet: White or almost white capsular film-coated tablets, debossed with “L82” on one side and blank on the other side.

Sildenafil HEC Pharm 100 mg film-coated tablet: White or almost white capsular film-coated tablets, debossed with “L4” on one side and blank on the other side.

PVC/PVDC Aluminum blisters

Pack sizes: 4, 8, 10, 12 and 24 film-coated tablets per carton.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

HEC Pharm GmbH

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