

Patient Information Leaflet

Beechams FLU PLUS *HOT BERRY FRUITS*

Paracetamol, Phenylephrine, Vitamin C

Please read right through this leaflet before you start using this medicine. This medicine is available without prescription, but you still need to use Beechams Flu Plus Hot Berry Fruits carefully to get the best results from it.

- Keep this leaflet you may need to read it again.
- If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand, ask your pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. What Beechams Flu Plus does
2. Check before you take Beechams Flu Plus
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1. What Beechams Flu Plus does

Beechams Flu Plus is used for the short term relief of the symptoms of flu, colds and chills. These symptoms include headache, shivers, aches and pains, blocked nose and painful sinuses, catarrh and sore throat.

This medicine contains three active ingredients. Paracetamol is a painkiller and reduces your temperature when you have a fever. Phenylephrine hydrochloride is a decongestant which unblocks your nose and sinuses helping you breathe more easily. Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) is a common ingredient of cold and flu products. It is included to help replace vitamin C which may be lost in the initial stages of cold and flu.

2. Check before you take Beechams Flu Plus

<Cross> Do not take Beechams Flu Plus:

- if you have ever had **an allergic reaction** to paracetamol, phenylephrine hydrochloride, ascorbic acid or any of the other ingredients (listed in Section 6)
- if you have **kidney or liver problems, overactive thyroid, diabetes, high blood pressure or heart disease**
- if you have **an enlarged prostate**
- if you have **phaeochromocytoma or glaucoma**

- if you are taking **tricyclic antidepressants** (e.g. imipramine or amitriptyline) or if you are taking or have taken within the last two weeks **monoamine oxidase inhibitors** (MAOIs) (e.g. moclobemide) prescribed for **depression**
- if you are taking **beta blockers**.

Do not take anything else containing paracetamol while taking this medicine. Do not take with any other flu, cold or decongestant product.

<exclamation mark> Take special care with Beechams Flu Plus

- **Contains paracetamol. Taking too much paracetamol can cause serious harm to your liver.**
- This product may cause dizziness. If affected, do not drive or operate machinery.

<exclamation mark> Ask your doctor before you take this medicine:

- if you have a **blood vessel disease** such as **Raynaud's Phenomenon**
- if you have **heart or circulation disease**
- if you have **diabetes mellitus**. Each dose contains **5 g of sucrose**.
- if you are on a **controlled-sodium diet**. Each dose contains **0.12 g of sodium**.
- if you have **liver or kidney problems**
- if you have a **severe infection** or **severe illnesses**, including severe renal impairment or sepsis (when bacteria and their toxins circulate in the blood leading to organ damage), or you suffer from **malnutrition, chronic alcoholism** or if you are also taking **flucloxacillin** (an antibiotic). A serious condition called metabolic acidosis (a blood and fluid abnormality) has been reported in patients in these situations when paracetamol is used at regular doses for a prolonged period or when paracetamol is taken together with flucloxacillin. Symptoms of metabolic acidosis may include:
 - serious breathing difficulties with deep rapid breathing
 - drowsiness
 - feeling sick (nausea)
 - being sick (vomiting)
 - loss of appetite

Contact a doctor **immediately** if you get a combination of these symptoms.

<exclamation mark> If you are taking other medicines

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Beechams Flu Plus if you are taking any prescribed medicines; particularly **metoclopramide** or **domperidone** (for **nausea** [feeling sick] or **vomiting** [being sick]) or **ergotamine** or **methylsergide** (for migraine) or **colestyramine** (to **lower blood cholesterol**) or drugs to lower **blood pressure**; appetite suppressants or stimulants; drugs to treat **depression** such as tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. amitriptyline) or **heart disease** (e.g. digoxin); if you take **blood thinning drugs (anticoagulants** e.g. warfarin) or if you are taking **flucloxacillin** (antibiotic), due to a serious risk of blood and fluid abnormality (called metabolic acidosis) that must have urgent treatment (see section 2)..

<exclamation mark> **Pregnancy and breast feeding**

Do not take Beechams Flu Plus if you are **pregnant** or **breast feeding** unless advised by a doctor.

3. How to take Beechams Flu Plus

<Tick> Adults and children aged 16 years and over:

Empty the contents of one sachet into a mug. Half fill with very hot water. Stir well.

Add cold water as necessary and sugar if desired.

Always use the lowest effective dose to relieve your symptoms.

Take one sachet every 4-6 hours as needed.

- <Exclamation mark>
- **Do not take more frequently than every 4 hours.**
 - **Do not take more than 4 sachets in 24 hours.**
 - **Do not take more than the recommended dose.**
 - **Do not take for more than 7 days without asking your doctor.**
 - **Do not give to children under 16 years.**

If you take too many sachets

Talk to a doctor at once if you take too much of this medicine, even if you feel well. This is because too much paracetamol can cause delayed, serious liver damage.

If symptoms persist, **see your doctor.**

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, Beechams Flu Plus can have side effects, but not everybody gets them. A small number of people have had side effects.

Stop taking this medicine and tell your doctor immediately if you experience:

- **Allergic reactions** which may be severe such as skin rash and itching sometimes with swelling of the mouth or face or shortness of breath.
- **Skin rash or peeling, or mouth ulcers. Very rare cases of serious skin reactions have been reported.**
- **Breathing problems.** These are more likely if you have experienced them before when taking other painkillers such as ibuprofen or aspirin.
- Unexplained **bruising or bleeding.**
- Nausea, sudden weight loss, loss of appetite and yellowing of the eyes and skin.
- **Visual disturbances.** This is rare but is more likely in those with glaucoma.
- Unusually **fast pulse rate** or a sensation of an unusually **fast or irregular heartbeat.**
- Reoccurring **fevers** or **infections.**

- **Difficulty passing water.** This is more likely to occur in men with an enlarged prostate gland.

The following side effects may occur. Tell your doctor if you get them.

- Raised blood pressure, headache, dizziness, difficulty sleeping, nervousness, anxiety, diarrhoea, sickness or a serious condition that can make blood more acidic (called metabolic acidosis), in patients with severe illness using paracetamol (see section 2).

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or [search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store](#). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Beechams Flu Plus

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the 'EXP' date shown on the pack. Do not store above 25°C.

6. Further information

Active ingredients Each dose contains Paracetamol 1000 mg, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride 10 mg and Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) 70 mg.

Other ingredients Tartaric acid, sodium citrate, aspartame (E 951), Euroblend blackcurrant, berry fruit flavourburst, sucrose and colours carmoisine (E 122) and sunset yellow (E 110), green S (E 142) with sodium chloride and sodium sulphate. **Aspartame (E 951) contains a source of phenylalanine which may be harmful for people with phenylketonuria.**

Colour sunset yellow (E 110) and carmoisine (E 122) may cause allergic reactions.

Packs of Beechams Flu Plus Hot Berry Fruits contain 5 or 10 sachets of powder. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

The marketing authorisation holder is Haleon UK Trading Limited, Weybridge, KT13 ONY, U.K.

The manufacturer is SmithKline Beecham SA, Ctra de Ajalvir, Km 2500, 28806 Alcala de Henares, Madrid, Spain.

This leaflet was last revised in December 2024.

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