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Patient information leaflet: Information for the patient

P3647T

# WARFARIN Tablets 1mg, 3mg & 5mg

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

- Keep the leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms 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.

- It is important to take the correct dose. If you have difficulty, ask someone to help you. If you take the wrong dose or take too much, contact your doctor or pharmacist (See Section 3).
- Carry your warfarin record card with you at ALL times. Always tell any doctors, surgeons, nurses, dentists or pharmacists that you are taking warfarin tablets.
- Warfarin can be affected by many other medicines including non prescription medicines, herbal remedies, vitamin and food supplements (See Section 2 'Other medicines and Warfarin Tablets'). Do not start taking any new medicine without checking it is safe to take it with warfarin; especially aspirin, ibuprofen and other NSAIDs (non steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines), as these can make you more likely to bleed.
- Some foods and illnesses can affect warfarin treatment. Follow the advice in Section 2 'Things which affect warfarin'.
- If you have any signs or symptoms of bleeding, contact a doctor straight away (See Section 4).
- Seek medical help at once if you are unable to stop any bleeding, you fall, get hurt or hit your head.

## What is in this leaflet

1. What Warfarin Tablets are and what they are used for
2. What you need to know before you take Warfarin Tablets
3. How to take Warfarin Tablets
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Warfarin Tablets
6. Contents of the pack and other information

## 1. What Warfarin Tablets are and what they are used for

Warfarin belongs to a group of medicines called anticoagulants. It is used to reduce the clotting ability of the blood. (It is sometimes called a 'blood thinner', but it does not actually thin the blood.)

Warfarin is used to prevent and treat blood clots forming in the legs, lungs, brain and heart.

The tablets come in three strengths and colours: 1mg (brown); 3mg (blue); 5mg (pink).

## 2. What you need to know before you take Warfarin Tablets

### Do not take Warfarin Tablets if you

- are **allergic** to warfarin or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- are **pregnant** in the first trimester and the last four weeks of pregnancy or may become pregnant or have had a **baby in the last 48 hours**

- have a **severe bleeding**
- have or have ever had any **bleeding problems**
- have recently had a **stroke** caused by bleeding in the brain
- have had **surgery** within the last 72 hours or are going to have surgery in the next 72 hours
- have a **serious risk of bleeding** (for risk factors see 'warnings and precaution')
- in the case of **severe liver disease**
- are taking natural medicines containing St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (**NSAIDs**), **aspirin or anti-clotting medicines** as this may increase the risk of bleeding. (See Section 2 'Other medicines and Warfarin Tablets').

If any of these apply to you, do not take this medicine and go back to your doctor to discuss your treatment.

### Warnings and Precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Warfarin Tablets if you have:

- already using, before you start using or stop using other medicines during treatment with warfarin (see also Other medicines and Warfarin)
- very **high blood pressure** which is not controlled by medicines
- a **stomach or duodenal ulcer** or have ever had one
- previously had **gastrointestinal bleeding**
- had recent **ischaemic stroke** (caused by blockage of blood vessels in the brain)
- an **infection of the heart lining** (bacterial endocarditis)
- problems with **circulation of blood to the brain** (cerebrovascular disease)
- **thyroid** problems
- severe **heart disease, liver or kidney** problems
- have a condition making you **prone to blood clots** (thrombophilia)
- **anaemia** (low haemoglobin causing extreme tiredness, breathlessness, poor resistance to infection)
- a **tumour or cancer**
- had a recent **wound or injury**
- **oesophageal varices or arterial aneurysm**
- **protein C or protein S deficiency** (disorders that can cause an increased risk of blood clots).
- a higher risk of bleeding for examples because you are over 65 years of age or are unsteady on your feet and more likely to fall and injure yourself.

If any of these apply to you, tell your doctor or pharmacist before taking warfarin, as you may need to be checked more often during treatment.

### Regular blood tests

You will have regular blood tests to see how long it takes your blood to clot. These blood tests are very important to make sure you are taking the right dose. Blood tests will be more frequent if you have had your dose of warfarin changed, if you have started or stopped taking other medicines, or have liver or kidney problems.

## Things which affect warfarin

A number of things affect blood clotting and can therefore affect your warfarin treatment. To make sure your warfarin tablets work properly and safely, it is important to follow the advice below.

Increases effect of warfarin	Reduces effect of warfarin	What to do
Weight loss	Weight gain	Do not go on a weight reducing diet or change your eating habits without discussing it first with your doctor or nurse. Keep your level of activity as close to normal as possible.
	Vitamin K	Do not take vitamin K supplements.
	Foods such as liver, broccoli, brussels sprouts and green leafy vegetables contain large amounts of vitamin K.	Don't make any major changes to your diet whilst taking warfarin.
Cranberry juice and cranberry products (and possibly grapefruit juice)		Don't drink either cranberry juice or grapefruit juice or products containing these whilst taking warfarin.
Large amounts of alcohol		Only drink small amounts whilst taking warfarin.
Sudden illness such as the flu or feeling run down	Stomach upset, diarrhoea, being sick (vomiting).	If any of these happen, tell your doctor or nurse, as your dose may need to be changed.
Stopping smoking		Seek medical advice before you give up smoking.

## Keep healthcare professionals informed

Carry your anticoagulation record card with you at ALL times. Always tell any doctors, surgeons, nurses, dentists or pharmacists that you go to that you are taking Warfarin Tablets. You should also have received a booklet which includes more information about warfarin along with a list of symptoms which need to be checked by your doctor immediately.

## Operations

Due to the risk of bleeding, you may need to lower your dose before an operation or removal of teeth. You should stop taking warfarin 72 hours before and after surgery where there is a risk of severe bleeding. Make sure you tell your doctor or dentist you are taking warfarin tablets.

## Other medicines and Warfarin Tablets

Many medicines affect the way warfarin works. You must **tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking/using, have recently taken/used or might take/use any other medicines** including over the counter medicines, herbal remedies and vitamin supplements.

## Do not take Warfarin and tell your doctor if you are taking:

- alteplase, reteplase, streptokinase, tenecteplase, urokinase (fibrinolytic drugs to treat or prevent blood clots)
- St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) a herbal remedy for depression.

## Check with your doctor first before taking these medicines:

- non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for pain and inflammation including aspirin, ibuprofen, celecoxib, diclofenac, indometacin, meloxicam
- clopidogrel, abciximab, dipyridamole, eptifibatide, tirofiban (antiplatelet drugs to prevent or break down blood clots)
- heparin or medicines containing heparin, bivalirudin, fondaparinux, dabigatran, rivaroxaban, danaparoid, prostacyclin (other anticoagulants)
- sulfapyrazone (for gout)
- glucosamine (for osteoarthritis) may increase the effect of Warfarin
- SSRI and SNRI antidepressants such as citalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine, venlafaxine.

## Medicines which increase the effect of Warfarin. Tell your doctor if you are taking:

- prolonged, regular use of paracetamol (for pain or inflammation)
- antibiotics such as amoxicillin, levofloxacin and tetracycline
- allopurinol (for gout)
- capecitabine, erlotinib, tamoxifen (for types of cancer)
- disulfiram (for alcohol dependence)
- ketoconazole, fluconazole, itraconazole (for fungal infections)
- omeprazole (for stomach ulcers)
- propafenone, amiodarone, quinidine (for heart disorders)
- methylphenidate (for attention deficit disorder)
- zafirlukast (for asthma)
- bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, fenofibrate, gemfibrozil (to reduce high blood fats)
- statins such as fluvastatin to lower cholesterol (but this does not include pravastatin)



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Product:	Warfarin Tablets 1mg, 3mg and 5mg
Item Code:	P3647T
Size:	370 x 260 mm
Min. Point size:	8pt
O. Artwork	03/12/25
Proof No.	3
Amendment Date:	11/12/25

Colours Used	
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- erythromycin, sulfamethoxazole, metronidazole (for bacterial infections)
- orlistat (for obesity).

**Medicines which decreases the effect of Warfarin. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking:**

- barbiturates (sedatives)
- primidone, phenytoin, carbamazepine (to treat epilepsy)
- griseofulvin (for fungal infections)
- oral contraceptives (the 'Pill')
- rifampicin (for tuberculosis)
- azathioprine (for inflammatory bowel disease and rheumatoid arthritis and to prevent organ rejection)
- sucralfate (for stomach ulcers)
- cholestyramine (for lowering cholesterol)
- vitamin K (in vitamin supplements or in cod liver oil).

**Medicines which have varying effects on Warfarin. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking:**

- corticosteroids (for inflammation and many other diseases)
- nevirapine, ritonavir (for HIV infection).

Many other medicines affect the therapeutic effect of Warfarin tablets, which means that it may be necessary to change the dosage or take other precautions when Warfarin tablet is taken at the same time as a series of other medicines. It is therefore important that treating doctors are aware of all other concomitant medication.

**Warfarin with food, drink and alcohol**

Cranberries should be avoided during treatment with Warfarin tablets.

The daily intake of vitamin K-rich foods such as cabbage, broccoli, spinach and avocado should be as even as possible. Changes in the amount of vitamin K in food can alter the effect of warfarin tablet. Alcohol can affect the effect of Warfarin tablets.

**Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine.

*Pregnancy:* Risk of harmful effects to the fetus. Therefore, do not use Warfarin during pregnancy other than on specific prescription from a doctor. During the first third and the last four weeks of pregnancy, Warfarin should not be used.

Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant, may become pregnant or have had a baby within the last 48 hours.

See your doctor straight away if you get pregnant whilst taking this medicine.

Warfarin is unlikely to harm your baby during breastfeeding, if taken at the correct dose.

*Fertility:* Women of childbearing potential should use effective contraception during treatment with Warfarin tablets.

**Driving and using machines**

Warfarin has no known effect on the ability to drive or operate machines.

**Warfarin Tablets contain Lactose and Sucrose**

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

**Warfarin contains sodium**

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

**Warfarin Tablets contain Amaranth**

The 1mg strength tablet contains amaranth (E123). This may cause allergic reactions.

**3. How to take Warfarin Tablets**

Always take Warfarin Tablets exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Your dose will be decided by your doctor and will depend on the results of the blood tests carried out to measure the time it takes your blood to clot.

Once you have been stabilised on this medicine the usual dose is between 3 – 9mg. Try to take the medicine at the same time each day.

**If you take more Warfarin Tablets than you should**

Talk to your doctor or go to your nearest hospital casualty department straight away. Take the medicine pack with you. Symptoms of taking too much Warfarin include bleeding, black tarry stools, blood in urine, heavy bleeding or oozing from cuts and wounds or unusually heavy menstrual bleeding.

**If you forget to take Warfarin Tablets**

If you usually take your warfarin in the evening and you have forgotten to take it, if you remember before midnight on the same day, take the missed dose. If midnight has passed do not take that dose. Make a note that you have missed a dose and take your normal dose the next day at the usual time.

If you usually take your warfarin in the morning and have forgotten to take it the general advice is as follows:

- if it is less than two hours late, take the dose as soon as you remember and then continue as normal.
- if it is more than two hours late, take the dose as soon as you remember and then continue as normal. However, if it is time to take your next dose leave out the missed dose. Never take a double dose to catch up. Make a note that you have missed a dose.

If you are not sure what to do if you have missed a dose ask your GP or anticoagulant clinic for advice.

**4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**If any of the following occur, stop taking the tablets and tell your doctor immediately**

- if you fall or injure yourself during treatment, especially if you hit your head. Please seek urgent medical attention. You may need to be checked by a doctor, as you may be at increased risk of bleeding
- a rare allergic reaction such as swelling of the face, tongue, lips and throat, difficulty breathing, severe itching of your skin with raised lumps. You may need urgent medical attention.

**Tell your doctor straight away if you have any of the following side effects.**

A painful skin rash. On rare occasions warfarin can cause serious skin conditions, including one called calciphylaxis that can start with a painful skin rash but can lead to other serious complications. This adverse reaction occurs more frequently in patients with chronic kidney disease.

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

- bleeding from various organs. Always contact a doctor if you experience bleeding.

**Common** (may affect up to 1 in 10 users):

- increased sensitivity to warfarin during long-term treatment.

**Uncommon** (may affect up to 1 in 100 users):

- Anaemia,
- vomiting, nausea, diarrhoea.

**Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 users):

- impaired liver function, jaundice
- skin rash, hives, itching, hair loss, liver damage, jaundice, local vascular inflammation in the skin, tissue damage, tissue damage in the skin.

**Very rare** (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 users):

- hypersensitivity reaction
- blue toe syndrome (painful, bluish discoloration of the toes),
- dark or black stools.

**Not known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- fever
- blurred vision, slurred speech, loss of movement, numbness, dizziness, headache, confusion, feeling or being sick, fits, loss of consciousness. These could be a sign of a bleed in the brain.
- bleeding
- coughing up blood, unexplained nose bleeds, bleeding gums
- bleeding from the back passage (rectum), vomiting blood, severe pain in the upper abdomen (a sign of inflammation of the pancreas), abdominal pain (due to bleeding),
- accumulation of calcium in the blood vessel wall (which leads to enlarging and painful sores on the skin).
- pink, dark red or brown urine (this may be due to bleeding in the bladder or kidneys), impaired kidney function in severe anticoagulation and the presence of blood in the urine (anticoagulation-related nephropathy).
- unexplained drop in red blood cells (haematocrit), decrease in haemoglobin

**Reporting of side effects**

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](http://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 Warfarin Tablets**

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

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

Keep this medicine in the pack provided. Do not store above 25°C.

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 Warfarin Tablets contain:**

Warfarin tablets are available in 3 strengths: as 1mg (brown), 3mg (blue) and 5mg (pink) and contain either 1mg, 3mg or 5mg of warfarin sodium as the active substance.

They also contain the following other ingredients: lactose, sucrose, maize starch, magnesium stearate and pregelatinised starch.

The following colours are also present in the tablets:

Warfarin Tablets 1mg: Brown Blend containing quinoline yellow (E104), amaranth (E123), indigo carmine (E132).

Warfarin Tablets 3mg: Indigo Carmine (E132).

Warfarin Tablets 5mg: Erythrosine (E127).

**What Warfarin Tablets look like and contents of the pack:**

Warfarin Tablets 1mg are flat bevelled edged, brown tablets engraved with the company logo on one side and with a breakline and A338 on the other side.

Warfarin Tablets 3mg are flat bevelled edged, blue tablets engraved with the company logo on one side and with a breakline and A324 on the other side.

Warfarin Tablets 5mg are flat bevelled edged, pink tablets engraved with the company logo on one side and with a breakline and A325 on the other side.

This medicine is available in pack sizes of 28, 50, 100, 250, 500 and 1000 tablets. (Not all pack sizes may be marketed).

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer:**

Crescent Pharma Ltd., Key House, Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, RG21 8SR, UK.

**This leaflet was last revised in December 2025.**

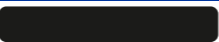
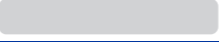

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