

## CLIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

Updated: March 2020

# Chlorphenamine

- Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.
- Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.
- This medicine has been prescribed for *your* pet ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.

The medicine you have been given for your dog or cat is called chlorphenamine. It may have a trade name such as Piriton®, but often will just be called chlorphenamine (or chlorpheniramine).

### What is chlorphenamine?

Chlorphenamine belongs to a group of medicines that are called *antihistamines*.

### Why has my pet been prescribed chlorphenamine?

Chlorphenamine is often used to treat allergies or hives in cats or dogs. It may be used as part of a combination of drugs to help control the itching associated with allergic skin disease.

### How should I store chlorphenamine?

This medicine does not require special storage conditions. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

### How do I give chlorphenamine tablets or syrup to my pet?

Chlorphenamine tablets or syrup can be put into a small amount of food that your pet likes and this can be given to your pet before their main dinner. Alternatively, the tablets or syrup can be placed carefully on the back of your pet's tongue and their mouth held closed until the entire dose has been swallowed.

### How long will my pet need to take chlorphenamine?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients. It is important that it is administered on a regular basis even if your pet is not itchy.

### What should I do if I run out of tablets or syrup?

Try not to run out. Make sure you order more chlorphenamine from your vet if your supply is getting low. If you do run out, contact your own vet for further advice and restart the course as soon as possible.

### What should I do if I miss a dose?

If a dose is missed, give the medication as soon as possible. However, it is best to skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your pet's next scheduled dose. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose and do not exceed the total stated dose in any one 24-hour period.

### What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

There is limited information available about chlorphenamine overdose in pets. In the event of an overdose, contact your own vet as soon as possible for further advice.

### Can my pet take chlorphenamine if I am already giving them other drugs?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, even if you think they already know. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop or pharmacy. More drowsiness may be seen if chlorphenamine is given to pets that are already taking other drugs that potentially cause this side effect, for example opioids such as morphine used for pain relief. If you have any concerns about using chlorphenamine with other medication, please ask your own vet for further advice.

### What are the possible side effects of chlorphenamine for my pet?

There is limited information available about the potential side effects of chlorphenamine in pets. In humans it may cause some drowsiness, vomiting, diarrhoea and urine retention. In rare cases, agitation may occur. It should not be used in pregnant animals. If your pet shows *any* unusual symptoms whilst taking this medication, please contact your vet as soon as possible.

### What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking chlorphenamine?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should not give any further doses and should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

### What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

If a person accidentally takes your pet's medicine, the person should be taken to the local hospital **immediately**. Take this leaflet and any remaining tablets or syrup plus their container (even if it is empty) with you.

### Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug, or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and will know about chlorphenamine.

#### The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

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