

## **APIXABAN (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>) WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

### **WHY AM I TAKING APIXABAN (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>)?**

Your doctor has recommended the medication apixaban (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>) for you to take. This medication is an anticoagulant, “anti” meaning against and “coagulant” meaning clotting, so a medication that prevents blood clots. Sometimes this drug is called a blood thinner. An anticoagulant helps to prevent clots from forming in the blood.

While you are on this medication you will need to be watched carefully for bleeding and bruising. Your health care provider will work with you to keep you safe and healthy while you are taking apixaban (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>). Please notify your health care provider if you have any questions.

The more you know about this medication, the better team you and your health care provider will make together. Please take some time to read all of the information.

### **HOW SHOULD APIXABAN (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>) BE TAKEN?**

- Take your medication exactly as prescribed. Apixaban (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>) is taken twice daily at the same time each day.
- Medication may be taken with or without food
- Tablets may be crushed if difficulty swallowing whole.
- If you miss a dose take it as soon as you remember. Do NOT take more than one dose at the same time to make up for the missed dose.

### **CAN I TAKE APIXABAN (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>) WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?**

It is important to talk with your doctor or pharmacist about all of the other medications that you are taking, including over-the-counter medications, antibiotics, vitamins, or herbal supplements.

You may have increased risk of bleeding if you take other medications such as:

- Aspirin or aspirin containing products
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs): ibuprofen ( ADVIL<sup>®</sup>), or naproxen (ALEVE<sup>®</sup>)
- Other medication to help prevent blood clots such as warfarin (COUMADIN<sup>®</sup>) or clopidogrel (PLAVIX<sup>®</sup>)

### **WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF APIXABAN (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>)?**

- Small bruises
- Slight gum bleeding when brushing teeth
- Occasional nose bleed
- Bleeding after a minor cut that stops within minutes

## **WHEN SHOULD I CONTACT MY MEDICAL PROVIDER OR GET MEDICAL ATTENTION?**

If you are experiencing something abnormal that you feel may be caused by your apixaban (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>), please contact your health care provider.

Some things to watch for include:

Major bleeding

- Red, dark, coffee colored urine
- Bowel movements that are red or look like tar
- Bleeding that does not stop after 10 minutes
- Vomit that is coffee colored or bright red

Other concerns may include:

- Unexpected pain, swelling or joint pain
- Headaches or weak and dizzy
- A serious fall or a hit on the head
- If you are pregnant or plan on becoming pregnant

**IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY MAJOR BLEEDING CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY OR GO TO THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM**

## **CAN I STOP TAKING APIXABAN (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>)?**

Do not stop taking apixaban (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>) unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop.

Apixaban (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>) may need to be stopped before a procedure or a surgery. Ask your provider for specific instructions on when to stop taking the medication and when to restart.

If you want or need to stop taking this medication for any reason, contact your healthcare provider immediately before stopping.

***STOPPING THIS MEDICATION MAY INCREASE YOUR RISK OF HAVING A BLOOD CLOT.***

## **WILL I NEED A REGULAR BLOOD TEST?**

Your healthcare provider may do blood work before starting the medication to help them find the correct dose. You will need to have this blood work done at least once a year.

Apixaban (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>) does not require the monthly blood monitoring like some other blood thinners.

## **DO I NEED TO CHANGE MY DIET?**

There are no dietary restrictions to consider while taking apixaban (ELIQUIS<sup>®</sup>)