

Your medication

Lorazepam (Ativan)



IH-V-170
W.D. 3/03
Pg. 1 of 2

Why do I take this medicine?

Lorazepam is an anti-anxiety medicine. It may help you be calmer and more able to cope.

How do I take this medicine?

- Take this medicine just like your doctor told you.
- The medicine may be taken on an empty stomach **or** with food.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. If you do not remember until it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual schedule. **Do not take two doses at the same time.**

What common side effects may I have?

These effect may go away as you get used to the medicine. You may:

- feel lightheaded or dizzy
- have a headache
- feel weak
- feel clumsy or unsteady
- feel very sleepy in the daytime

What special things do I need to know?

- **Before** taking any other medicine (prescription or those you can buy without a prescription) talk to your doctor.

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- Tell your doctor if you are **allergic to any medicine**.
- Do not suddenly stop taking this medicine. You may have symptoms of withdrawal.
- Ativan is a controlled substance. This means that your prescription is good only for 6 months. Before that you will have to see your doctor or come in to the clinic for a new prescription.
- Make sure to **keep your appointments** for doctor visits and blood tests.
- If you are sleepy or dizzy stand up slowly after you have been sitting or lying down. If you are dizzy or sleepy, **do not** drive or do other jobs where you need to be alert.
- **Do not** drink alcohol while you are taking this medicine. Beer, wine or hard liquor may make you more dizzy or sleepy.
- **Do not** share you medicine with anyone.
- Keep all medicine out of the reach of children. Even a small amount of this medicine may make a child very sick or cause death. Keep all your medicines in a safe place where children cannot get them.
- If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breast-feeding, tell your doctor **before** you take this medicine. **This medicine may have harmful effects on unborn babies**. If you are not using birth control, be sure and tell your doctor.
- All medicines can cause side effects. Usually, these side effects will get better after a few days. If they do not, you should tell your doctor. The doctor can make some changes in the medicine. **Do not** stop taking the medicine unless the doctor tells you to. Side effects **do not** mean that you are allergic to the medicine.

My special instructions

Call your doctor if you have any questions