



**Please note this information leaflet should be read alongside any patient information leaflets provided by the manufacturer with the medication.**

## **Why do I need the medication?**

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Gabapentin is an anti epileptic drug used in lower doses to control pain. It is particularly useful for the relief of pain caused by damaged or irritated nerves (neuralgia). It is hoped that it will reduce the amount of nerve pain you are getting by 'calming down' the nerves that report the pain to the brain.

## **How does Gabapentin work?**

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Gabapentin works by changing the way that nerves send messages to your brain. If the messages are reduced, then the pain will be reduced.

## **How do I take the medication?**

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Please follow the dosing regime given here. If you experience any side effects go back to the previous dose and wait a few days before increasing the dose again. Only increase to the next step if you are still experiencing your usual pain symptoms.

This medication will need to be taken for approximately 4 weeks before you can judge if it has been beneficial.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Evening</b>
1-3	-	-	300mg
4-6	300mg	-	300mg
7-9	300mg	300mg	300mg
10-12	300mg	300mg	600mg
13-15	600mg	300mg	600mg
16-18	600mg	600mg	600mg

## **What are the possible side effects of the medication?**

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- Dry mouth
- Drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Lethargy
- Visual disturbances
- Muscle Weakness
- Weight increase
- Gastric discomfort

The side effects usually wear off over time.

Please **do not** stop Gabapentin suddenly. It needs to be reduced gradually over at least one week. Please discuss with you doctor before stopping.

## **Who should I contact if I need further information?**

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You should contact DHC on:

**01306 735459**