

**Package leaflet:  
Information for the user**

**Nexium® 40mg Gastro-resistant Tablets**  
(esomeprazole)

Your medicine is available using the above name but will be referred to as Nexium throughout this leaflet.

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

- Keep this 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 signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

**What is in this leaflet:**

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

**1. What Nexium is and what it is used for**

Nexium contains a medicine called esomeprazole. This belongs to a group of medicines called 'proton pump inhibitors'. They work by reducing the amount of acid that your stomach produces.

Nexium is used to treat the following conditions:

**Adults**

- 'Gastroesophageal reflux disease' (GERD). This is where acid from the stomach escapes into the gullet (the tube which connects your throat to your stomach) causing pain, inflammation and heartburn.
- Ulcers in the stomach or upper part of the gut (intestine) that are infected with bacteria called '*Helicobacter pylori*'. If you have this condition, your doctor may also prescribe antibiotics to treat the infection and allow the ulcer to heal.
- Stomach ulcers caused by medicines called NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs). Nexium can also be used to stop stomach ulcers from forming if you are taking NSAIDs.
- Too much acid in the stomach caused by a growth in the pancreas (Zollinger-Ellison syndrome).
- Prolonged treatment after prevention of rebleeding of ulcers with intravenous Nexium.

**Adolescents aged 12 years and above**

- 'Gastroesophageal reflux disease' (GERD). This is where acid from the stomach escapes into the gullet (the tube which connects your throat to your stomach) causing pain, inflammation and heartburn.
- Ulcers in the stomach or upper part of the gut (intestine) that are infected with bacteria called '*Helicobacter pylori*'. If you have this condition, your doctor may also prescribe antibiotics to treat the infection and allow the ulcer to heal.

**2. What you need to know before you take Nexium**

**Do not take Nexium:**

- If you are allergic to esomeprazole or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- If you are allergic to other proton pump inhibitor medicines (e.g. pantoprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole, omeprazole).
- If you are taking a medicine containing nelfinavir (used to treat HIV infection).

Do not take Nexium if any of the above apply to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Nexium.

**Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Nexium:

- If you have severe liver problems.
- If you have severe kidney problems.
- If you have ever had a skin reaction after treatment with a medicine similar to Nexium that reduces stomach acid.
- If you are due to have a specific blood test (Chromogranin A).

Nexium may hide the symptoms of other diseases.

**Therefore, if any of the following happen to you before you start taking Nexium or while you are taking it, talk to your doctor straight away:**

- You lose a lot of weight for no reason and have problems swallowing.
- You get stomach pain or indigestion.
- You begin to vomit food or blood.
- You pass black stools (blood-stained faeces).

If you have been prescribed Nexium "on demand" you should contact your doctor if your symptoms continue or change in character.

Taking a proton pump inhibitor like Nexium, especially over a period of more than one year, may slightly increase your risk of fracture in the hip, wrist or spine. Tell your doctor if you have osteoporosis or if you are taking corticosteroids (which can increase the risk of osteoporosis).

If you get a rash on your skin, especially in areas exposed to the sun tell your doctor as soon as you can, as you may need to stop your treatment with Nexium. Remember to also mention any other ill-effects like pain in your joints.

**Children under the age of 12 years**

Information on dosing for children aged 1 to 11 years is provided in Nexium sachet product information (ask your doctor or pharmacist if you require further information).

**Other medicines and Nexium**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. This includes medicines that you buy without a prescription. This is because Nexium can affect the way some medicines work and some medicines can have an effect on Nexium.

Do not take Nexium Tablets if you are taking a medicine containing nelfinavir (used to treat HIV infection).

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- Atazanavir (used to treat HIV infection).
- Clopidogrel (used to prevent blood clots).
- Ketoconazole, itraconazole or voriconazole (used to treat infections caused by a fungus).
- Erlotinib (used to treat cancer).
- Citalopram, imipramine or clomipramine (used to treat depression).
- Diazepam (used to treat anxiety, relax muscles or in epilepsy).
- Phenytoin (used in epilepsy). If you are taking phenytoin, your doctor will need to monitor you when you start or stop taking Nexium.
- Medicines that are used to thin your blood, such as warfarin. Your doctor may need to monitor you when you start or stop taking Nexium.
- Cilostazol (used to treat intermittent claudication – a pain in your legs when you walk which is caused by an insufficient blood supply).
- Cisapride (used for indigestion and heartburn).
- Digoxin (used for heart problems).
- Methotrexate (a chemotherapy medicine used in high doses to treat cancer) – if you are taking a high dose of methotrexate, your doctor may temporarily stop your Nexium treatment.
- Tacrolimus (organ transplantation).
- Rifampicin (used for treatment of tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) (used to treat depression).

If your doctor has prescribed the antibiotics amoxicillin and clarithromycin as well as Nexium to treat ulcers caused by *Helicobacter pylori* infection, it is very important that you tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking.

**Nexium with food and drink**

You can take your tablets with food or on an empty stomach.

**Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility**

If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine. Your doctor will decide whether you can take Nexium during this time. It is not known if Nexium passes into breast milk. Therefore, you should not take Nexium if you are breast-feeding.

**Driving and using machines**

Nexium is not likely to affect you being able to drive or use any tools or machines. However, side effects such as dizziness and blurred vision may uncommonly or rarely occur (see section 4). If affected, you should not drive or use machines.

**Nexium contains sucrose**

Nexium contains sugar spheres which contain sucrose, a type of sugar. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, talk to your doctor before taking this medicine.

**3. How to take Nexium**

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

- If you are taking this medicine for a long time, your doctor will want to monitor you (particularly if you are taking it for more than a year).
- If your doctor has told you to take this medicine as and when you need it, tell your doctor if your symptoms change.

**How much to take**

- Your doctor will tell you how many tablets to take and how long to take them for. This will depend on your condition, how old you are and how well your liver works.
- The recommended doses are given below.

**Use in adults aged 18 and above**

**To treat heartburn caused by gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD):**

- If your doctor has found that your food pipe (gullet) has been slightly damaged, the recommended dose is one Nexium 40mg gastro-resistant tablet once a day for 4 weeks. Your doctor may tell you to take the same dose for a further 4 weeks if your gullet has not yet healed.
- The recommended dose once the gullet has healed is one Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablet once a day.
- If your gullet has not been damaged, the recommended dose is one Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablet each day. Once the condition has been controlled, your doctor may tell you to take your medicine as and when you need it, up to a maximum of one Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablet each day.
- If you have severe liver problems, your doctor may give you a lower dose.

**To treat ulcers caused by *Helicobacter pylori* infection and to stop them coming back:**

- The recommended dose is one Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablet twice a day for one week.
- Your doctor will also tell you to take antibiotics for example amoxicillin and clarithromycin.

**To treat stomach ulcers caused by NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs):**

- The recommended dose is one Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablet once a day for 4 to 8 weeks.

**To prevent stomach ulcers if you are taking NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs):**

- The recommended dose is one Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablet once a day.

**To treat too much acid in the stomach caused by a growth in the pancreas (Zollinger-Ellison syndrome):**

- The recommended dose is Nexium 40mg twice a day.
- Your doctor will adjust the dose depending on your needs and will also decide how long you need to take the medicine for. The maximum dose is 80mg twice a day.

**Prolonged treatment after prevention of re-bleeding of ulcers with intravenous Nexium:**

- The recommended dose is one Nexium 40mg tablet once a day for 4 weeks.

**Use in adolescents aged 12 or above**

**To treat heartburn caused by gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD):**

- If your doctor has found that your food pipe (gullet) has been slightly damaged, the recommended dose is one Nexium 40mg gastro-resistant tablet once a day for 4 weeks. Your doctor may tell you to take the same dose for a further 4 weeks if your gullet has not yet healed.
- The recommended dose once the gullet has healed is one Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablet once a day.
- If your gullet has not been damaged, the recommended dose is one Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablet each day.
- If you have severe liver problems, your doctor may give you a lower dose.

**To treat ulcers caused by *Helicobacter pylori* infection and to stop them coming back:**

- The recommended dose is one Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablet twice a day for one week.
- Your doctor will also tell you to take antibiotics for example amoxicillin and clarithromycin.

**Taking this medicine**

- You can take your tablets at any time of the day.
- You can take your tablets with food or on an empty stomach.
- Swallow your tablets whole with a drink of water. Do not chew or crush the tablets. This is because the tablets contain coated pellets which stop the medicine from being broken down by the acid in your stomach. It is important not to damage the pellets.

### What to do if you have trouble swallowing the tablets

- If you have trouble swallowing the tablets:
  - Put them into a glass of still (non-fizzy) water. Do not use any other liquids.
  - Stir until the tablets break up (the mixture will not be clear). Then drink the mixture straight away or within 30 minutes. Always stir the mixture just before drinking it.
  - To make sure that you have drunk all of the medicine, rinse the glass very well with half a glass of water and drink it. The solid pieces contain the medicine - do not chew or crush them.
- If you cannot swallow at all, the tablet can be mixed with some water and put into a syringe. It can then be given to you through a tube directly into your stomach ('gastric tube').

### Use in children under the age of 12 years

Nexium gastro-resistant tablets are not recommended for children less than 12 years old.

Information on dosing for children aged 1 to 11 years is provided in Nexium sachet product information (ask your doctor or pharmacist if you require further information).

### Elderly

Dose adjustment is not required in the elderly.

### If you take more Nexium than you should

If you take more Nexium than prescribed by your doctor, talk to your doctor or pharmacist straight away.

### If you forget to take Nexium

- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose.
- Do not take a double dose (two doses at the same time) to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

## 4. Possible side effects

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

### If you notice any of the following serious side effects, stop taking Nexium and contact a doctor immediately:

- Sudden wheezing, swelling of your lips, tongue and throat or body, rash, fainting or difficulties in swallowing (severe allergic reaction).
- Reddening of the skin with blisters or peeling. There may also be severe blisters and bleeding in the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals. This could be 'Stevens-Johnson syndrome' or 'toxic epidermal necrolysis'.
- Yellow skin, dark urine and tiredness which can be symptoms of liver problems.

These effects are rare, and may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people.

Other side effects include:

### Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Headache.
- Effects on your stomach or gut: diarrhoea, stomach pain, constipation, wind (flatulence).
- Feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting).
- Benign polyps in the stomach.

### Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Swelling of the feet and ankles.
- Disturbed sleep (insomnia).
- Dizziness, tingling feelings such as "pins and needles", feeling sleepy.
- Spinning feeling (vertigo).
- Dry mouth.
- Changes in blood tests that check how the liver is working.
- Skin rash, lumpy rash (hives) and itchy skin.
- Fracture of the hip, wrist or spine (if Nexium is used in high doses and over long duration).

### Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Blood problems such as a reduced number of white cells or platelets. This can cause weakness, bruising or make infections more likely.
- Low levels of sodium in the blood. This may cause weakness, being sick (vomiting) and cramps.
- Feeling agitated, confused or depressed.
- Taste changes.
- Eyesight problems such as blurred vision.
- Suddenly feeling wheezy or short of breath (bronchospasm).
- An inflammation of the inside of the mouth.
- An infection called "thrush" which can affect the gut and is caused by a fungus.
- Liver problems, including jaundice which can cause yellow skin, dark urine, and tiredness.
- Hair loss (alopecia).
- Skin rash on exposure to sunshine.
- Joint pains (arthralgia) or muscle pains (myalgia).
- Generally feeling unwell and lacking energy.
- Increased sweating.

### Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)

- Changes in blood count including agranulocytosis (lack of white blood cells).
- Aggression.
- Seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not there (hallucinations).
- Severe liver problems leading to liver failure and inflammation of the brain.
- Sudden onset of a severe rash or blistering or peeling skin. This may be associated with a high fever and joint pains (Erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis).
- Muscle weakness.
- Severe kidney problems.
- Enlarged breasts in men.

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

- If you are on Nexium for more than three months it is possible that the levels of magnesium in your blood may fall. Low levels of magnesium can be seen as fatigue, involuntary muscle contractions, disorientation, convulsions, dizziness or increased heart rate. If you get any of these symptoms, please tell your doctor promptly. Low levels of magnesium can also lead to a reduction in potassium or calcium levels in the blood. Your doctor may decide to perform regular blood tests to monitor your levels of magnesium.
- Inflammation in the gut (leading to diarrhoea).
- Rash, possibly with pain in the joints.

Nexium may in very rare cases affect the white blood cells leading to immune deficiency. If you have an infection with symptoms such as fever with a **severely** reduced general condition or fever with symptoms of a local infection such as pain in the neck, throat or mouth or difficulties in urinating, you must consult your doctor as soon as possible so that a lack of white blood cells (agranulocytosis) can be ruled out by a blood test. It is important for you to give information about your medication at this time.

### 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 HPRa Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2  
Tel: +353 1 6764971 Fax: +353 1 6762517  
Website: www.hpra.ie E-mail: medsafty@hpra.ie

By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## 5. How to store Nexium

- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date (Exp) which is marked on the wallet/blister/carton. This refers to the last day of that month.
- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not store above 30°C.
- Store in the original package to protect from moisture.
- Remember to return any unused tablets to your pharmacist (chemist) for safe disposal.
- If your tablets appear to be discoloured, damaged or show any other signs of deterioration, please return these to your pharmacist who will advise you further.
- Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away any medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6. Contents of the pack and other information

### What Nexium contains

Each gastro-resistant tablet contains 40mg of the active ingredient esomeprazole (as magnesium trihydrate).

The other ingredients are: glycerol monostearate 40-55, hypromellose, hypromellose, iron oxide (reddish-brown) (E172), magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, methacrylic acid ethyl acrylate copolymer (1:1) dispersion 30 per cent, macrogol, polysorbate 80, crospovidone, sodium stearyl fumarate, synthetic paraffin, sugar spheres (sucrose and maize starch), talc, titanium dioxide (E171), triethyl citrate.

### What Nexium looks like and contents of the pack

Nexium are pink, oblong, biconvex, film-coated tablets engraved '40 MG' on one side and 'A/EI' on the other side.

Your tablets are available in blister packs containing 28 tablets.

### Manufacturer

AstraZeneca AB, Gartnavagen, SE-151 85, Södertälje, Sweden or  
AstraZeneca AB, Mariehemsvägen 8, SE-901 07, Umeå, Sweden or  
AstraZeneca UK Ltd, Macclesfield, Cheshire, UK or  
AstraZeneca GmbH, Tinsdaler Weg 183, Wedel 22880, Germany or  
Corden Pharma GmbH, Plankstadt, Germany or  
Recipharm Monts, Monts, France or AstraZeneca Reims, Reims, Cedex 2, France or  
Bracco S.p.A. - Via E. Folli, 50 - 20134, Milan, Italy or  
Pitheon Italia S.p.A. - Viale G.B. Stucchi 110 - 20052, Monza, Italy.

Procured from within the EU by the PPA holder: Imbat Ltd, Unit L2, North Ring Business Park, Santry, Dublin 9.

Repackaged by: Doncaster Pharmaceuticals Group Ltd, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN3 1QR, UK.

Distributed by: Eurodrug Ltd, Santry, Dublin 9.

PPA No: 1151/17/2

**This medicine is authorised in the Member states of the EEA under the following names:**

Member State	Name of medicinal product
Austria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom	Nexium
Belgium, Luxembourg	Nexiam
France	Inexium
Germany, Spain	Nexium mups

Leaflet revision and issue date (ref): 30.06.17

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**Blind or partially sighted?  
Is this leaflet hard to see or read?  
Call +44 (0) 1302 365000 (Regulatory)**

**Please be ready to give the following information:**

**Product name:**

**Nexium 40mg**

**Gastro-resistant Tablets**

**Reference No: 1151/17/2**

The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:

### Administration through gastric tube

1. Put the tablet into an appropriate syringe and fill the syringe with approximately 25ml water and approximately 5ml air. For some tubes, dispersion in 50ml water is needed to prevent the pellets from clogging the tube.
2. Immediately shake the syringe for approximately 2 minutes to disperse the tablet.
3. Hold the syringe with the tip up and check that the tip has not clogged.
4. Attach the syringe to the tube whilst maintaining the above position.
5. Shake the syringe and position it with the tip pointing down. Immediately inject 5 - 10ml into the tube. Invert the syringe after injection and shake (the syringe must be held with the tip pointing up to avoid clogging of the tip).
6. Turn the syringe with the tip down and immediately inject another 5 - 10ml into the tube. Repeat this procedure until the syringe is empty.
7. Fill the syringe with 25ml of water and 5ml of air and repeat step 5 if necessary to wash down any sediment left in the syringe. For some tubes, 50ml water is needed.