

## PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

### **Echinaforce Forte**

Cold & Flu tablets

*Echinacea purpurea* herb & root dry extracts

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

Always take this product exactly as described in this leaflet or as your doctor, pharmacist or nurse has told you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- Ask your pharmacist if you need more information or advice.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.
- You must talk to a doctor if you do not feel better or if you feel worse after 10 days.

#### **What is in this leaflet:**

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

### **1. WHAT ECHINAFORCE FORTE IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR**

Echinaforce Forte is a traditional herbal medicinal product containing the extracts of fresh *Echinacea purpurea* herb and root.

It is used to relieve:

- Common cold symptoms
- Flu-like symptoms

This is exclusively based on long-standing use.

Echinaforce Forte is for use in adults and adolescents over 12 years of age.

## 2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE ECHINAFORCE FORTE

### Do not take Echinaforce Forte

- If you are under 12 years of age.
  
- If you are **allergic** to
  - Echinacea or plants of the daisy (Asteraceae/Compositae) family. Echinacea is a member of the daisy family.
  - Peanut or soya. This product contains soya polysaccharide.
  - Any of the other ingredients of this product (listed in section 6).
  
- If you **suffer** from
  - TB (the infection tuberculosis)
  - Sarcoidosis (a connective tissue disorder which causes the formation of clumps of cells, mainly in the lymph nodes, lungs and liver)
  - An autoimmune disease such as collagenoses (inflammation of the connective tissue) or multiple sclerosis
  - HIV, AIDS or any other condition which decreases your resistance to infection
  - A disorder which affects your white blood cells such as agranulocytosis (low white blood cell count due to bone marrow disorders) or leukemia (blood cell cancer)
  
- If you are having treatment to reduce the response of your immune system (immunosuppression) e.g. chemotherapy, radiotherapy
  
- If you have had an organ or bone marrow transplant

### Warnings and precautions

- Stop taking this product and see your doctor if:
  - You have a high temperature (fever)
  - Your symptoms worsen or if you do not feel an improvement within 10 days
  
- If you have a tendency to allergies such as hives, allergic eczema or asthma consult your doctor before use. This product may not be suitable for you.

### Children

- Do not give this product to children under 12 years of age.

### Other medicines and Echinaforce Forte

- Do not take this product if you are taking any medicine which affects your immune system.
  
- If you are speaking to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse always remember to tell them about any medicines you are taking, including herbal remedies such as Echinaforce Forte.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

- Do not take this product if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

### **Driving and using machines**

- Echinacea has no known effect on your ability to drive or use machines. Make sure you know how this product affects you before you drive or use machinery.

### **Echinaforce Forte contains soya and lactose**

- If you are allergic to peanut or soya, do not take this product.
- If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, talk to your doctor before taking this product.

## **3. HOW TO TAKE ECHINAFORCE FORTE**

Always take this product exactly as described in this leaflet or as your doctor, ~~or~~ pharmacist or nurse has told you. Check with your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are not sure.

### **Recommended dose**

**Adults, older people and adolescents over 12 years:** Take 1 tablet two to three times daily.

Start taking this product at the first signs of a cold.

For oral short-term use only. Do not take more than the recommended dose.

### **If you take more Echinaforce than you should**

- If you take too much and feel ill, talk to your doctor.

### **If you forget to take Echinaforce**

- Do not worry about a missed dose, take the next dose as usual.
- Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

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

## **4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

Like all products, this product can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

## Side effects

### Allergic reactions

If you already suffer from allergies you may be more likely to get them. Allergic reactions which may occur are:

- Skin rash
- Red, itchy skin (hives)
- Swelling of the face or skin due to fluid (angioedema)
- Blistering of the skin, mouth, eyes or groin (Stevens-Johnson syndrome)
- Difficulty in breathing
- Asthma or anaphylactic shock (a life-threatening allergic reaction)

Stop taking this product immediately if any of these occur. Seek medical advice and take this leaflet with you.

### Other effects

You may find that when you take Echinaforce Forte you feel tingling, irritation or numbness in your mouth. This is due to the presence of alkylamides which are a natural part of the plant extracts in Echinaforce Forte.

There have been isolated reports suggesting an association between Echinacea products and autoimmune diseases such as:

- Inflammation of the brain and spinal cord (Multiple sclerosis)
- Painful lumps on the shins (erythema nodosum)
- Low blood platelet count
- Destruction of blood cells by antibodies (Evans Syndrome)
- Dryness in the mouth and eyes with kidney dysfunction (Sjögren Syndrome)

The frequency of the above side effects is not known. This means it is not known how often these reactions occur as there has not been enough reports to allow this information to be calculated.

### Reporting of side effects

- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, ~~or~~ pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.
- You can also report side effects directly via: (see details below).  
HPRA Pharmacovigilance  
Earlsfort Terrace  
IRL – Dublin 2  
Tel: +353 1 6764971  
Fax: +353 6762517  
Website: <http://www.imb.ie/www.hpra.ie>  
E-mail: [medsafety@hpra.ie](mailto:medsafety@hpra.ie)

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

## 5. HOW TO STORE ECHINAFORCE FORTE

- Keep this product out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use this product after the expiry date which is stated on the label and carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Use within 7 months of opening.
- This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.
- Do not use this product if you notice a change in appearance. The tablets should be greenish in colour.
- Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

### What Echinaforce Forte contains

Each tablet contains:

- 17.7 mg of dry extract from *Echinacea purpurea* (L.) Moench herb (equivalent to 300-600 mg of fresh *Echinacea purpurea* (L.) Moench herb) (Purple Coneflower herb). Extraction solvent: Ethanol 65% V/V.
- 0.9 mg of dry extract from *Echinacea purpurea* (L.) Moench root (equivalent to 17-29 mg of fresh *Echinacea purpurea* (L.) Moench root) (Purple Coneflower root). Extraction solvent: Ethanol 65% V/V.

The other ingredients used for the tablet are lactose, pregelatinised starch, magnesium stearate and soya polysaccharide.

### What Echinaforce Forte looks like and contents of the pack

Echinaforce Forte tablets are round and greenish in colour. Echinaforce Forte is available in packs containing 30 and 40 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Traditional Herbal Registration Holder**

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**You should also know**

A.Vogel Ireland runs a helpline by phone and email which can provide you with further information.

E-mail: [enquiries@avogel.ie](mailto:enquiries@avogel.ie)

Phone: 0818 930 070

You can get a larger print or audio version of this leaflet. Call this number:  
0818 930 070