

## Children's medication information leaflet

# METFORMIN

**Other names:** Arrow Metformin®, Apotex Metformin®, Metomin®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

### Why is your child taking this medicine?

Metformin belongs to a group of medicines that lowers blood sugar levels. Metformin works by reducing the amount of glucose (sugar) produced in the liver and decreasing the absorption of glucose from the intestines (gut). This helps your insulin to work better.

### When to give your child this medicine

Metformin should be given regularly exactly as prescribed by your doctor. It should be given **with food** to avoid stomach upset.

Do not change the dose without talking to your doctor.

Metformin should be **temporarily** stopped during any illness that causes severe vomiting or severe diarrhoea or any condition that causes dehydration – talk to your doctor.

### What should you do if your child misses a dose

Give it to your child as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not give two doses at the same time.

### Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if your child experiences any of these side effects:

- Severe vomiting or diarrhoea
- Severe stomach pain
- Unusual muscle pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Feeling tired, weak, dizzy or unusually cold.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child has these side effects:

- Mild nausea and diarrhoea
- Upset stomach
- Increased stomach bloating or wind
- Metallic taste in the mouth

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

### **Other Medication**

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving your child any other medicines including herbal or complementary medicines and medicines available to buy without a prescription.

### **Other Information**

While on metformin your child should follow the diet and exercise plan recommended by your doctor.

If your child is very thirsty, needs to pass urine (wee) frequently or is very tired or weak, contact your doctor as the dose of metformin may need to be changed.

Prior to surgery of any kind tell your doctor or dentist that your child is taking this medicine.

### **Storage**

Metformin must be stored in a dry place (not the bathroom).

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.**