

Lemsip Max Cold & Flu Capsules
(paracetamol, caffeine and phenylephrine hydrochloride)
Patient Information Leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you take this medicine. If you are not sure of anything ask your pharmacist or doctor.

1. What is this medicine and what is it used for?

Lemsip Max Cold & Flu Capsules contain a combination of ingredients which are effective in relieving the symptoms associated with colds and flu, including relief of aches and pains, sore throats, headache, nasal congestion and lowering of temperature.

Paracetamol is a well-known painkiller (analgesic). It is effective against aches and pains, including a headache, and can also reduce a fever (antipyretic). Caffeine (a mild stimulant), helps relieve fatigue and drowsiness through the day. Phenylephrine hydrochloride (nasal decongestant) reduces swelling in the passages of the nose, relieving nasal congestion and reducing the pressure which may cause a headache.

2. Before taking this medicine

Do not take this medicine with any other paracetamol-containing products.

Also, you should not drink large quantities of alcohol, whilst taking this medicine.

As with all medicines Lemsip Max Cold & Flu Capsules may not be suitable for some people.

Do not take this medicine if:

- You are allergic to any ingredient (see section 6 for further information)
- You have a serious heart condition
- You have high blood pressure (hypertension) or an overactive thyroid
- You are taking or have taken within the last 14 days a medicine called a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI), usually used to treat depression
- You are pregnant or breast feeding

You should ask the pharmacist before taking Lemsip Max Cold & Flu Capsules if:

- You have Raynaud's syndrome (poor blood circulation which makes the fingers or toes pale and numb), or diabetes mellitus
- You are taking beta-blockers for high blood pressure, or vasodilators (drugs used to treat high blood pressure, leg pain due to vascular problems or Raynaud's syndrome)
- You are taking tricyclic antidepressants (a specific class of drugs used to treat depression), other decongestants, or barbiturates (used to treat sleep problems or epilepsy)
- You have a problem with your liver or kidneys or a history of stomach ulcer
- You have non-cirrhotic liver disease (liver disease that is not associated with changes in the structure of the liver)
- You have closed angle glaucoma or prostatic enlargement
- You are taking other medicines. Some drugs may affect the way in which paracetamol works, including those used to treat blood cholesterol (cholestyramine) and nausea and vomiting (metoclopramide and domperidone). The effect of blood thinning drugs (warfarin and other coumarins) may be increased by paracetamol. Some drugs may affect the way in which phenylephrine works (digoxin and cardiac glycosides). The speed at which caffeine is disposed of by the body can be slowed down by cimetidine (used to reduce stomach acid), disulfiram (used to treat alcoholism) or oral contraceptives.



3. How to take this medicine

The capsules should be swallowed whole with water. Do not chew.

It is important to drink plenty of fluids when suffering from colds and flu.

The dosage for adults and children 12 years and over is 2 capsules to be taken every four to six hours.

Do not take more than 8 capsules in 24 hours.

Do not give to children under 12 years.

If the symptoms of your cold or flu persist for more than three days, or worsen, consult your pharmacist.

Immediate medical advice should be sought in the event of an overdose, even if you feel well because of the risk of delayed, serious liver damage.

4. Possible side-effects

- Allergic reactions (such as skin rashes)
- Blood disorders, such as thrombocytopenia (reduction in blood platelets which might mean that you bleed or bruise more easily), pancytopenia (reduction in white and red blood cells), agranulocytosis, leucopenia or neutropenia (reduction in white blood cells which makes infections more likely)
- Nausea
- Stomach ulcers
- Acute pancreatitis (after ingestion of above normal amounts)
- High blood pressure with headache
- Central Nervous System effects such as difficulty in sleeping, restlessness/nervousness or mental confusion often accompanied by hallucinations (seeing and hearing things that are not there)
- Vomiting
- Palpitations (irregular or forceful heartbeats)
- Caffeine, if taken close to bedtime, may interfere with sleep
- Difficulty in passing urine (in men only)

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have any side-effects after taking this medicine, including any not listed in this leaflet.

5. How to store

Keep all medicines out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not use after the end of the month of the expiry date (EXP month/year) shown on the pack.

Do not store above 25°C (77°F). Store in the original package.


6. Further information

Lemsip Max Cold & Flu Capsules contain the active ingredients paracetamol 500mg, caffeine 25mg and phenylephrine hydrochloride 6.1mg. The other ingredients are starch, croscarmellose sodium, sodium laurilsulfate, magnesium stearate, sterilised talc, gelatin, titanium dioxide (E171), patent blue V (E131), erythrosine (E127) shellac and quinoline yellow (E104).

The product is available in cartons of 8 and 16 capsules.

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