New Zealand Formulary
PATIENT INFORMATION

DIGOXIN

di-jox-in

What does it do?

Digoxin is used to treat heart failure and irregular heartbeats.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *digoxin* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food.
Measure the liquid carefully with an oral syringe or measuring spoon.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (e.g. St John's wort) or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Symptoms of heart problems including: fluttering, pounding or pain in your chest, feeling your heart skips a beat, dizziness or fainting Unusual behaviour or thinking, confusion	Tell your doctor immediately
Changes in vision Dizziness, tiredness or weakness	Tell your doctor
Nausea, vomiting	Take with food and tell your doctor if symptoms continue

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- You may need blood tests while taking *digoxin* to check the amount of potassium and magnesium in your blood, and to see how well your kidneys are working.
- If you start or stop other medicines, or have changes in your health, you may need a blood test to check you are on the right dose of *digoxin*.