

## INSULIN NEUTRAL

*in-sue-lin new-tral*

### What does it do?

*Insulin neutral* is a short-acting insulin used to treat diabetes.

### How should you use it?

*Insulin neutral* should be injected into the fatty tissue under the skin (subcutaneously). The abdomen (belly) is usually the best place to inject. Change the injection site regularly so that lumpiness under the skin does not develop.

### What if you forget a dose?

If you miss a dose of *insulin neutral* and have already eaten, check your blood sugar. If it is high, follow the instructions for high blood sugar (hyperglycemia). Otherwise, skip the dose and continue as directed. If you are unsure, contact your health professional.

### Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

### What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects   | Recommended action  |
|--|---|
| Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing                 | Tell your doctor immediately  |
| Low blood sugar (hypo): symptoms may include sweating, trembling, feeling anxious or irritable | Drink or eat something sweet. Tell your health professional if this happens a lot or is severe. |
| Pain, tenderness or redness at injection site  | Tell your health professional if troublesome  |

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

### Other information:

- If you become ill, change your diet or change your exercise routine your insulin needs will also change, discuss this with your health professional.
- Alcohol may alter your blood sugar and insulin needs. Changes in your sugar testing and insulin treatment are needed if drinking alcohol.
- Tell your doctor if you have liver, kidney or thyroid problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- Test your blood sugar before meals, 2 hours after meals and at bedtime, or as directed.
- Keep unopened insulin in the fridge. Once you start using it, you can keep it at room temperature for about 4 weeks (check the exact time on the packet for your insulin). After this, take any leftover insulin back to your pharmacy.
- Wear medical identification (e.g. MedicAlert bracelet) indicating that you have diabetes. Keep extra insulin, needles and something sweet with you at all times.