

# APO-Teriflunomide

*Teriflunomide*

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## Consumer Medicine Information

For a copy of a large print leaflet, Ph: 1800 195 055

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### What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about this medicine. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking this medicine against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.** You may need to read it again.

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### What this medicine is used for

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Teriflunomide is used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS).

The cause of MS is not yet known. MS affects the central nervous system (CNS) – the brain and spinal cord. In MS, the body's immune system reacts against its own myelin (the 'insulation' or the protective sheath surrounding nerve fibres).

With relapsing forms of MS, people can have repeated attacks or relapses of inflammation of the CNS from time to time. Symptoms vary from patient to patient and may include blurred vision, weakness in the legs or arms, or loss of control of bowel or bladder function. These are followed by periods of recovery.

Teriflunomide works by selectively interfering with the ability of white blood cells (lymphocytes) to produce the disease response and nerve damage that ultimately leads to relapses.

Teriflunomide has been shown to reduce or decrease the number of relapses and slow down the progression of physical disability in patients with relapsing forms of MS. Although it is not a cure, patients treated with teriflunomide generally find they will have fewer relapses.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

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### Before you take this medicine

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*When you must not take it*

**Do not take this medicine if you have an allergy to:**

- any medicine containing teriflunomide or leflunomide
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin

**Do not take this medicine if you have any of the following medical conditions:**

- any disease which reduces your body's natural defences
- diseases of the blood
- serious skin disorders
- severe liver disease
- a condition called hypoproteinaemia (when you do not have enough protein in your blood)

**You must not become pregnant while taking this medicine and for a certain period of time after stopping.**

Teriflunomide may increase the risk of birth defects.

**Women of childbearing potential must use reliable contraception while taking this medicine.**

**Do not take this medicine if you are breastfeeding, or if you are planning to breastfeed.**

Teriflunomide passes into breast milk and there is a possibility that your baby may be affected.

**Do not give this medicine to a child or adolescent under the age of 18 years.**

Teriflunomide is not approved for use in children or adolescents under 18 years old.

**Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

**If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.**

### *Before you start to take it*

**Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.**

**Tell your doctor if you think you could be pregnant, or if you intend to become pregnant or father a child.**

Teriflunomide may increase the risk of birth defects. To reduce any risk to the developing baby, you will need to stop taking teriflunomide and may need to undergo a wash-out procedure. Your doctor will discuss the wash-out procedure with you.

**Tell your doctor if you start to breastfeed or plan to breastfeed.**

You should not breastfeed while you are taking teriflunomide. You and your doctor will decide what is best for you and your baby.

**Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:**

- liver problems
- high blood pressure
- chronic or serious infection
- a decrease in the number of white blood cells or an illness which lowers your body's resistance to disease
- tuberculosis
- lung problems, such as interstitial lung disease (an inflammation of lung tissue) – a serious and potentially fatal disease
- kidney disease.

**Before you start teriflunomide, your doctor will need to take blood samples to check the health of your liver and blood cells. This must be done in the last 6 months before starting this medicine.**

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking this medicine.**

### *Taking other medicines*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines and this one may interfere with each other. These include:

- some antibiotics such as rifampicin, cefaclor, penicillin G and ciprofloxacin
- some medicines used to treat epilepsy such as carbamazepine and phenytoin
- some medicines used for diabetes such as repaglinide or pioglitazone
- some medicines to treat cancer such as paclitaxel, doxorubicin and methotrexate
- some medicines used to treat depression such as duloxetine
- ondansetron, used to prevent and treat nausea
- theophylline, used to prevent asthma
- warfarin, used to prevent blood clots
- some medicines used to lower cholesterol such as "statins" e.g. rosuvastatin
- St John's Wort

These medicines may be affected by this medicine or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

In certain situations, e.g. if you experience a serious side effect, you change your medication, or you want to fall pregnant, your doctor will ask you to take medication that will help your body get rid of teriflunomide faster.

**Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.**

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### **How to take this medicine**

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**Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.**

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**If you do not understand the directions, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

### *How much to take*

The usual dose for this medicine is one 14 mg tablet per day.

Your doctor may have prescribed a different dose.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure of the correct dose for you.**

### *How to take it*

**Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water.**

### *When to take it*

**Take your medicine at about the same time each day.**

Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

It does not matter if you take this medicine before or after food.

**If you are not sure when to take it, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

### *How long to take it*

**Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.**

This medicine helps to control your condition but does not cure it. It is important to keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure how long to take the medicine for.**

### *If you forget to take it*

**If it is almost time to take your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.**

**If there is still a long time to go before your next dose, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.**

**Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.**

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

*If you take too much (overdose)*

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much of this medicine. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

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## While you are using this medicine

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*Things you must do*

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking this medicine.

Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine.

It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

If you become pregnant while you are taking this medicine, stop taking it and tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

If you are female talk to your doctor about birth control that you must use during treatment. You must use reliable methods of birth control while taking teriflunomide.

Talk to your doctor if you plan to become pregnant or before you stop taking this medicine.

If you are about to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine.

It may interfere with the results of some tests.

Your doctor may need to take blood samples to monitor the health of your liver and blood cells while you are taking teriflunomide.

Keep all your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.

Your doctor may do some tests from time to time to make sure the medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

If you need to stop treatment, the levels of teriflunomide in your blood can be lowered rapidly using a special wash-out procedure.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- an infection or notice chills, a fever or other signs of an infection while taking this medicine
- your skin becomes itchy or yellow, the whites of your eyes become yellow, you start to bleed or bruise easily, your urine becomes very dark or you have stomach pain, nausea or vomiting – if these occur, stop taking teriflunomide immediately as you may be developing a liver problem
- numbness or tingling in the hands or feet, or numbness or weakness of the arms and legs

Tell your doctor if you need to have a vaccination during treatment with this medicine or for 6 months after stopping treatment

*Things you must not do*

Do not take this medicine to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not take more than the recommended dose unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not stop taking your medicine lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.

*Things to be careful of*

Be careful when drinking alcohol while you are taking this medicine.

The effects of alcohol could be made worse while taking teriflunomide. It is recommended that you minimise your alcohol intake while taking teriflunomide.

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## Side effects

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Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking this medicine.

Teriflunomide helps most people with relapsing forms of MS, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them.**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- diarrhoea
- rashes or itchy skin
- hair loss
- weight loss
- unusual tiredness or weakness
- numbness or tingling of hands or feet
- thickened, inflamed, red patches on the skin, which may be accompanied with whitish scaly skin, or accompanied by white pus-filled bumps.

**If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:**

- signs and symptoms of severe infection e.g. fever
- severe upper stomach pain, often with nausea and vomiting

- severe skin rash or sores in your mouth
- your skin becomes pale, you start to feel tired, you become prone to infections or bruising
- if you develop new or worsening symptoms such as cough or trouble breathing, with or without a fever
- yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)
- thickened patches of red skin
- symptoms of an allergic reaction including cough, shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue, throat or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

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## Storage and Disposal

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### *Storage*

**Keep your tablets in the blister pack until it is time to take them.**

If you take the tablets out of the blister pack, they may not keep well.

**Keep your medicine in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.**

**Do not store this medicine or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.**

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

**Keep it where children cannot reach it.**

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

### *Disposal*

**If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.**

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## Product description

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### *What it looks like*

#### **APO-Teriflunomide 14 mg tablets**

Pale blue to pastel blue pentagonal film coated tablets with “14” debossed on one side and “T” on the other. AUST R 304232.

Available in blister packs of 5, 10, 14, 28 and 84 tablets.

\*Not all pack sizes may be available.

### *Ingredients*

This medicine contains 14 mg of teriflunomide as the active ingredient.

This medicine also contains the following:

- lactose monohydrate
- maize starch
- hyprolose
- silicon dioxide
- sodium starch glycollate
- magnesium stearate
- hypromellose
- macrogol 6000
- iron oxide yellow
- titanium dioxide
- indigo carmine aluminium lake

### *Supplier*

This medicine is supplied in Australia by:

Arrotex Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd  
15 – 17 Chapel Street  
Cremorne VIC 3121  
Australia

Web: [www.arrotex.com.au](http://www.arrotex.com.au)

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