

# Biological Therapies Cyanocobalamin 20 mg in 2 mL Injection

Vitamin B 12 for Intramuscular Injection

## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Cyanocobalamin 20 mg in 2 mL Injection. 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 administering Cyanocobalamin Injection against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

### What Cyanocobalamin Injection is used for

Cyanocobalamin 20 mg in 2 mL Injection contains the active ingredient Cyanocobalamin (Vitamin B12).

Cyanocobalamin belongs to a group of vitamins called cobalamins. The cobalamins are various different forms of Vitamin B12.

#### **Pernicious anaemia:**

Anaemia occurs when red blood cells cannot carry sufficient oxygen to meet the requirements of the body's cells. This may be due to a deficiency of oxygen, lack of ability of red blood cells to bind oxygen, or some defect of red blood cells. Vitamin B12 is needed to make red blood cells grow correctly, without it the red blood cells become large and less effective. This is a type of anaemia called megaloblastic (large cells) anaemia. Megaloblastic anaemia may also be caused by a folate (folic acid) deficiency. The "pernicious" part is because prolonged Vitamin B12 deficit can also lead to damage to the nervous system. The combination of nervous system damage and anaemia is called Pernicious Anaemia.

Symptoms of pernicious anaemia include tiredness, breathlessness, lack of energy and different sensations of the nervous system, such as pins and needles and loss of strength. Cyanocobalamin may be prescribed to help with the symptoms of pernicious anaemia, or for megaloblastic anaemia if Vitamin B12 deficiency is the diagnosed cause.

Your doctor may have prescribed Cyanocobalamin Injection for another reason.

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

Cyanocobalamin Injection is not addictive. Cyanocobalamin Injection is only available from a medical practitioner.

### Before you are given Cyanocobalamin Injection

**When you must not be given it:**

**Do not have Cyanocobalamin Injection administered if:**

- **you have a known allergy to cobalamins**  
If you have had an allergic reaction to Vitamin B12 before, you may be allergic to Cyanocobalamin.

- **you are pregnant and are diagnosed with megaloblastic anaemia**  
Cobalamins can mask the effects of megaloblastic anaemia caused by folate deficiency. Folate deficiency in pregnancy is a risk for birth defects in your baby. You must have Vitamin B12 deficiency confirmed by blood tests before using Cyanocobalamin Injection to treat megaloblastic anaemia.
- **you do not have a confirmed diagnosis that Vitamin B12 may be useful**
- **you are breastfeeding infants**  
Vitamin B12 is distributed into breast milk. Therefore it is not recommended for breastfeeding mothers unless the expected benefits to the mother outweigh any potential risk to the infant.
- **the solution in the bottle is not clear or contains particles.**
- **the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering**
- **the expiry date on the pack has passed**  
If you take this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work.

**If you are not sure whether you should be given Cyanocobalamin Injection, talk to your doctor.**

**Before you have it injected:**

Your doctor may test if you have an allergy to Cyanocobalamin by injecting a small amount under your skin

If you have any of the following medical illnesses or conditions, you must tell your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using Cyanocobalamin Injection if you have any of these illnesses or conditions.

- **Tell your doctor if you have had an allergy to any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet**
- **Tell your doctor if you have had an allergy to any other medicines or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes**

**If you have not told your doctor about any of these conditions, tell them before you have Cyanocobalamin Injected.**

**If Taking Other Medicines:**

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

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information about medicines to be careful with, use correctly or to avoid while you are being treated with Cyanocobalamin.

### How Cyanocobalamin Injection is given

**Cyanocobalamin Injection must only be given by a doctor or nurse.**

Cyanocobalamin Injection will be injected intramuscularly (into the buttock muscle) by your doctor.

**How much is given:**

Your doctor will tell you how much Cyanocobalamin Injection will need to be given and for how long it is to be given. This is determined by many factors including your body weight and your medical condition. The

usual dose is 20 mg by slow intramuscular injection.

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

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**How long to use it:**

Each person will respond differently to Cyanocobalamin Injection.

Your doctor will tell you how long you should take Cyanocobalamin Injection for.

**If you forget an appointment or need to change an appointment:**

You will need to make another appointment as soon as possible.

**If you are not sure what to do, contact your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible.**

**If too much is given (overdose):**

Your doctor should be the only person to inject Cyanocobalamin, so an overdose is not likely to occur.

**But if you think that you or anyone else may have been given too much Cyanocobalamin Injection immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) or go to accident and emergency at your nearest hospital. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

### While you are being given Cyanocobalamin Injection

**Things you must do:**

- **Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are being treated with Cyanocobalamin Injection.**
- **If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are being treated with Cyanocobalamin Injection.**
- **If you need to have any urine or blood tests tell your doctor that you are being given Cyanocobalamin Injection. Cyanocobalamin Injection may affect the results of some of these tests.**
- **Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while being treated with Cyanocobalamin Injection.**
- **Tell your doctor if you feel that giving Cyanocobalamin Injection is not helping your condition.**

Be sure to keep all appointments with your doctor so that your progress can be checked.

**Things you must not do:**

- **Do not attempt to inject Cyanocobalamin Injection yourself.**
- **Do not take any other medicines, whether they require a prescription or not, without first telling your doctor or consulting a pharmacist.**

### Side effects

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given or treated with Cyanocobalamin Injection.**

Cyanocobalamin Injection helps most people 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 treatment if you get some of the side effects.

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

**Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- Skin irritation and/or pain around the area of injection
- Bruising around the area of injection
- Any other mild allergies

These are usually mild side effects of using Cyanocobalamin, but could be serious.

**If any of the following happen, stop taking Cyanocobalamin and tell your doctor immediately, or go to accident and emergency at your nearest hospital:**

- severe allergic reaction which may include skin rash, itching, nausea, sweating, a feeling of warmth, tingling, weakness, tightness of the throat, pain in the chest, fast heart beat, difficulty breathing, faintness or swelling of the lips, face, tongue, throat, breathing tubes, hands or feet. Severe pain or inflammation of the feet, knees, hands, or elbows
- sneezing
- severe rash
- temporary itchiness
- blue discolouration of the skin
- bleeding
- prolonged stomach pain
- severe dizziness or drowsiness
- muscular paralysis
- low blood pressure
- prolonged nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea
- heart failure
- vision problems
- loss of consciousness

These are serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Others may occur in some people and there may be some side effects not yet known.

**Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything in this list.**

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You should not experience any of them.

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## How to Store Cyanocobalamin Injection

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Store below 25°C. Do NOT refrigerate or freeze. Protect from light.

In Australia, information on the shelf life can be found on the public summary of the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). The expiry date can be found on the packaging.

Keep out of reach of children.

**This product is for SINGLE USE in one patient on one occasion only. It will be**

**used once only and then it will be discarded. It must never be stored after it is opened or used for more than one person.**

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## Product Description

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### *What it looks like:*

Cyanocobalamin Injection is a clear red coloured solution, contained in an amber glass vial sealed with a rubber stopper and an aluminium cap.

pack sizes:

- 6 x 2 mL vials per carton
- 1 x 2 mL vial per carton

### *Ingredients per vial:*

Active Ingredient:

- Cyanocobalamin 20 mg

Other Ingredients

- Sodium Chloride
- Hydrochloric Acid
- Water for Injections

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## Supplier

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Supplied and manufactured in Australia by:

### **Biological Therapies**

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### **Australian Registration Number:**

AUST R 22407

Date this document last updated:

22 November 2018

