

# Patient Education



## Clopidogrel (Plavix)

The following information is to give you a better understanding of the medication prescribed to you and is not intended as medical advice.

### What is Clopidogrel?

Clopidogrel is classified as an anti-platelet agent and is a medication used to decrease the chance of a heart attack.

### How it works:

Since a heart attack or stroke may occur when a blood clot blocks a blood vessel in the heart or brain, Clopidogrel prevents particular cells in the blood from clumping together. This reduces the chance that a blood clot will form.

### Common side effects:

- Upset stomach/nausea/heartburn (taking medication with food may help).
- Aching muscles.
- Back pain.
- Dizziness.
- General feeling of discomfort or illness.
- Headache.

### Contact your doctor immediately if you experience:

- Severe or persistent diarrhea.
- Red or purple spots on the skin, varying in size from pinpoint to large bruises.
- Abnormal bleeding (Example – dark stools, orange-tinged urine, nosebleeds, bleeding gums, vomiting blood or material that looks like coffee grounds).

**WE CARE FOR PEOPLE**

**Compassion • Accountability • Rights & Responsibilities • Excellence**

*The information contained in this document are for information purposes only. They are not intended to be used as or replace medical advice given by a qualified health care provider.*

## Precautions to take

- Tell the doctor or dentist before having any kind of surgery (including dental) or an emergency treatment.
- **Do not stop the medication unless you have discussed it with your doctor.**

## More information

- Do not hesitate to contact your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any further questions about the medication you are taking.
- The common side effects may be seen but generally go away as your body adjusts to the medication. Check with your doctor if they continue or become bothersome.
- Clopidogrel, in combination with aspirin, reduces the risk of coronary artery closing after angioplasty has been performed and a stent inserted.

**WE CARE FOR PEOPLE**

**Compassion • Accountability • Rights & Responsibilities • Excellence**

*The information contained in this document are for information purposes only. They are not intended to be used as or replace medical advice given by a qualified health care provider.*