

Anticoagulation Management Service
Patient & Family Instructions
Apixaban (Eliquis®)

Apixaban (trade name Eliquis®) is used to prevent blood clots from forming in your body. It is sometimes called a blood thinner.

If you have questions or if you have side effects with apixaban (Eliquis®), call your doctor.

Your doctor: _____ Telephone #: _____

HOW and WHEN to take apixaban (Eliquis®)

- Take your pill twice every day with or without food.
- **Do NOT** stop taking it without talking to the doctor who ordered this for you.
- Talk to your doctor if you have kidney problems since a change may be needed.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember on the same day and take your usual dose on the next day. Do not double up doses.

Missing or late doses increases the risk of having a blood clot.

- Talk to the doctor who ordered apixaban if you are having surgery, or a medical or dental procedure. You may need to stop this medicine for a short time.
- Follow the special instructions from your doctor to switch from one type of anticoagulant or blood thinner to another.

SIDE EFFECTS of apixaban (Eliquis®)

- This medicine may cause bleeding.
- Cuts may bleed slightly longer and bruising may happen more easily. This is normal.
- Other side effects may include: nausea, skin rash or allergic reaction. Report any side effects that bother you to your doctor.

CALL YOUR DOCTOR or get emergency medical help by dialing 911 right away if you have:

- Symptoms of an allergic reaction such as chest pain or tightness, swelling in your face or tongue, trouble breathing, or feeling faint
- Blood coming from your mouth, nose or gums
- Blood in your sputum (spit) after coughing
- For females, bleeding from your vagina or a very heavy menstrual flow
- Vomit that is bloody or looks like ‘coffee grounds’
- Red or black (tarry) stool
- Pink or dark brown urine
- Bruising that is worse than usual or that happens for no reason at all
- Unusual headache or difficulty in thinking or speaking, dizziness
- Any weakness or numbness on your face, arms or legs
- Unexpected pain and/or swelling (headache or joint pain for example)
- A bad fall or injury

Important things to know when taking apixaban (Eliquis®)

- Tell all your doctors, dentists, and other health care providers that you take it
- When filling a new prescription or taking over-the-counter medicines or herbal products ask your pharmacist to make sure that it is safe to take
- Some medicines may affect the way this medicine works (examples: ketoconazole, itraconazole, ritonavir, clarithromycin, erythromycin, fluconazole, carbamazepine, phenytoin, rifampin) or may increase your risk of bleeding (examples: aspirin, motrin, advil, heparin, herbals and alternative therapies, eg. St. John’s wort).
- Keep a list of all your medicines, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines and herbal products to share with your doctors and other health care providers

Apixaban (Eliquis®) and Pregnancy/Breast feedings

- There are no good studies to tell us if it is safe during pregnancy
- It is very important to tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- It is not known if this medicine is passed through breast milk. It is recommended to stop this medicine or stop breast-feeding. **Before stopping this medicine, talk with your doctor.**

Note: Please contact Lynn Oertel, CNS for questions about this instructional material. 6/5/2013