

**alprazolam***benzodiazepine***Cautionary advisory labels:** 1, 9**Notes**

- Regular use for more than 2–4 weeks may result in dependence and tolerance. Monitor for physical and psychological dependence and tolerance (check intervals between prescription refills).
- Caution with sudden discontinuation of long-term treatment.
- Caution with respiratory disease or sleep apnoea. Reduced respiratory drive may cause hypoxaemia.
- May cause sedation, especially when alcohol is consumed, and a 'morning-after' hangover effect.
- Caution with drugs that inhibit CYP3A4 (see Table D.1, Section D).
- Monitor blood counts and LFTs.

**Changes in Urinary System:** May induce or aggravate functional incontinence by sedation or impairment of mobility.

**Elderly:** Over-sedation, confusion, memory impairment, poor muscle coordination leading to falls and fractures.

**Renal and hepatic impairment:** Caution. Dosage adjustment necessary. Monitor blood counts and LFTs.

**Pregnancy:** C. Use should be avoided if possible, especially during first trimester. If alprazolam is required, use the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration.

**Breastfeeding:** Use with caution. Excreted into breast milk, with concentrations increasing with time. Adverse effects (e.g. sedation, poor feeding) may be experienced by infant. Avoid long-term use, large doses or frequent dosing.

**Common dosage range****Adult dose**

*Anxiety:* 0.5–4.0 mg daily in divided doses.

**alprostadil***prostaglandin E1 for erectile dysfunction***Cautionary advisory labels:** 6 (reconstituted)**Notes**

- Allow to warm to room temperature before use.
- See doctor for injection technique instruction.
- Seek medical advice if erection lasts >4 hours.

**Common dosage range****Adult dose**

10–20 micrograms; maximum dose 60 micrograms. Use no more than once in 24 hours; may be used up to 3 times a week.

**aluminium hydroxide***antacid***Notes**

- For symptomatic relief of upper gastrointestinal discomfort.
- Best taken between meals and at bedtime as this is when acid levels at highest (i.e. 1–3 hours after meals).
- When used for hyperacidity, avoid precipitating factors (e.g. chocolate, fat, spices, large meals, alcohol, eating at bedtime, smoking).
- May interact with some medications. Separate doses by at least 2 hours.

**Changes to faeces:** Discolouration and white speckling.

**Elderly:** Caution. Metabolic bone disease.

**Renal impairment (severe/chronic):** Caution. Monitor for signs of hyperalumaemia.

**Pregnancy:** A.

**Breastfeeding:** May be used. Avoid high doses or long-term use.

**Common dosage range****Adult dose**

600–1,200 mg up to four times daily.

**amantadine***dopaminergic, antiviral***Cautionary advisory labels:** 9, 12, 16, B**Notes**

**Elderly:** Confusion and psychoses, orthostatic hypotension may increase risk of falls and fractures. Dose reduction may be necessary.

**Hepatic impairment:** Caution. Monitor clinically.

**Renal impairment:** Caution. Dose reduction may be necessary. Monitor plasma levels of drug.

$Cl_{Cr}$  30–50 mL/min = 200 mg on day one, then 100 mg every 24 hours thereafter.

$Cl_{Cr}$  15–29 mL/min = 200 mg on day one, then 100 mg every 48 hours.

$Cl_{Cr}$  <15 mL/min = 200 mg every 7 days.

**Pregnancy:** B3. Use not recommended.

**Breastfeeding:** Use alternative where possible. Small amounts excreted. Adverse effects (e.g. urinary retention, vomiting, rash) may be experienced by infant.

**Common dosage range****Adult dose**

100–200 mg daily. >65 years, 100 mg once daily.