

# NSAIDs (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)

## PATIENT INFORMATION GUIDE



Never give your medicine to others even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

### WHY HAVE WE GIVEN YOU THIS GUIDE?

- NSAIDs can cause serious side effects so it is important you know how to take them safely
- Some examples of NSAIDs include ibuprofen, diclofenac, naproxen and celecoxib
- This contains information for you use when taking NSAIDs
- NSAIDs are used for pain relief and inflammation
- Talk to your doctor, pharmacist (chemist) or nurse if you have any questions

### THINGS YOU CAN DO TO TAKE NSAIDs SAFELY

- Let your doctor know if you have had any problems with your kidneys, liver or heart, including high blood

### ▶ NSAIDs CAN BE HARMFUL

- NSAIDs can cause stomach ulcers and kidney problems, particularly if you smoke or drink a lot of alcohol, if you are dehydrated or over 65 years old
- Always store your medicines out of reach and out of sight of children
- ▶ **Let your doctor or pharmacist (chemist) know immediately if you:**
  - Have a skin rash, fever, or other 'allergic-type' reactions
  - Cough up blood (red or brown) or pass blood or jet-black stool in the toilet
  - Have indigestion-like pain in your chest or stomach
- ▶ **Tell your doctor or pharmacist (chemist) about all of the medicines you are taking**
  - NSAIDs can be harmful when taken with **some** other medicines, including herbal medicines, vitamins or supplements
- ▶ **Asthma and NSAIDs**
  - Let your doctor or pharmacist (chemist) know if you have asthma **before** you take NSAIDs
  - If you have **asthma and nasal polyps**, you should not take these medicines; ask your doctor or pharmacist (chemist) about other types of pain relief
- ▶ **Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and NSAIDs**
  - Let your doctor know if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, they may recommend other types of pain relief
- ▶ **Do not take any more doses than your doctor has asked you to**
  - High doses can harm your stomach and kidneys