

NSAIDs Dispensing Prompt

Safety messages
for non-steroidal
anti-inflammatory drugs



Drug name
Aspirin
Celecoxib
Diclofenac
Etodolac
Flurbiprofen
Ibuprofen
Indometacin
Mefenamic Acid
Meloxicam
Nabumetone
Naproxen
Piroxicam
Sulindac

Keep at the dispensing point - please see overleaf for safety messages.

NSAIDs Safety Messages

Message	Why?	Any other information?
Always take this medicine with or after food.	Helps to reduce or avoid gastrointestinal side effects.	
Tell us if you get any side effects.	Earlier recognition of side effects allows action to be taken before they develop into something more serious.	<p>Side effects to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nausea, vomiting, stomach pain or acid, black stools. <p>What if the patient reports side effects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a patient reports vomiting blood or black stools, this should be referred to a GP urgently as it indicates bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract. If a patient reports nausea, stomach pain or acid, it would be appropriate to stop the NSAID temporarily to see if this improves the symptoms.
Be aware of the medicine sick day rules.	<p>Some medicines, including NSAIDs, should be stopped temporarily during dehydrating illness.</p> <p>This is because continuing to take them when dehydrated increases the risk of serious adverse events, in particular acute kidney injury.</p>	<p>Explain that dehydration can occur with vomiting and diarrhoea, therefore the NSAID should be stopped until the patient is fully recovered. It can then be restarted. Explain that these rules are to cover situations like sickness bugs and food poisoning: it is separate from the advice above on gastrointestinal side effects.</p>