# Patient Education

## Imipenem and Cilastatin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand Names</th>
<th>Primaxin ® (There may be other names for this medication).</th>
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### How is it Administered?

Your medicine may be given as an injection, or intravenously (added to an existing IV drip). Infusions generally last between 20-60 minutes, depending on the dose.

### What is it Used For?

Primaxin is an antibiotic, used in the treatment of infections caused by bacteria.

### How Does it Work?

The combination of imipenem and cilastatin eliminates bacteria by destroying the bacterial cell walls. The bacteria affected is the kind that causes many kinds of infections, including pneumonia and gynecological, skin, stomach, blood, bone, joint, urinary tract, and heart valve infections.

### What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Receiving Primaxin?

Tell your doctor if you:

- Have had an allergic reaction to imipenem, cilastatin, any other medications, foods preservatives, or dyes
- Are pregnant or breastfeeding
- If you have any of the following medical conditions:
  - Central nervous system disorders such as brain disease or history of seizures
  - Kidney disease

**This drug may interact with other medications, increasing or decreasing their effectiveness or causing harmful side effects.** Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.

### What Are Some Possible Side Effects I May Experience?

- Diarrhea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Pain at place of injection

### How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea and vomiting

### When Should I Call the Doctor?

Let your doctor or nurse know immediately if you experience any of the following side effects:
- Confusion
- Convulsions (seizures)
- Decreased urination
- Facial swelling
- Severe diarrhea may be a sign of a serious side effect. Do not take any diarrhea medicine without first checking with your doctor. Diarrhea medicines may make your diarrhea worse or make it last longer.
- Signs of allergic reaction: skin rash, hives, itching, fever, or wheezing
- Tremors

What Else Should I Know About Primaxin®?

- To help clear up your infection completely, imipenem and cilastatin combination must be given for the full time of treatment, even if you begin to feel better after a few days.
- Some patients may develop tremors or seizures while receiving this medicine. If you already have a history of seizures and you are taking anticonvulsants, you should continue to take them unless otherwise directed by your doctor.
- If you become pregnant while on Primaxin®, call your doctor, as this drug may be harmful to the fetus.
- If you would like more information about Primaxin®, talk to your doctor.