



Medicine series

Practice details

# Famciclovir

- Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.
- Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.
- This medicine has been prescribed for your pet ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.

The medicine you have been given for your dog or cat is called famciclovir. It may have a trade name such as Famvir, but often will just be called famciclovir.

## What is famciclovir?

Famciclovir belongs to a group of drugs called antivirals. These inhibit viral replication.

## Why has my pet been prescribed famciclovir?

Vets use famciclovir most commonly to manage infection with feline herpesvirus (FHV).

## How should I store famciclovir?

Famciclovir has no special storage requirements. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

## How do I give famciclovir tablets to my pet?

The medication should be given by mouth. Try to disguise the medication in a small amount of strongly flavoured food that your pet likes. Alternatively, it can be placed carefully on the back of your pet's tongue and their mouth held closed until the entire dose has been swallowed.

## How long will my pet need to take famciclovir?

Your vet will tell you how long you need to administer the famciclovir for.

## What should I do if I run out of tablets?

If you run out of medication, you should contact your vet, who has a good understanding of your pet's conditions and the reasons for prescribing famciclovir.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, you can either give the dose straight away and re-establish the correct dosing intervals or wait until the next dose is due. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose and do not exceed the total stated dose in any one 24-hour period.

## What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

**Contact your vet immediately for advice.** Gastrointestinal signs may be observed even with standard doses. There is little information available about overdosing in cats.

## Can my pet take famciclovir if I am already giving them other medications?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet other medications. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store.

## What are the possible side effects of famciclovir for my pet?

Famciclovir can cause gastrointestinal signs, such as vomiting or diarrhoea. In humans, long-term treatment can cause low white blood cell levels and renal failure.

## What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking famciclovir?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should stop the medication and contact your vet as soon as possible.

## What should I do if a person accidentally takes this medication?

If a person accidentally takes the medication, you should go to a local hospital or contact a local doctor **immediately**. Take this leaflet and any remaining tablets, capsules or suspension plus their container (even if it is empty) with you.

## Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and further information on famciclovir.

## The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

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