

## Important Information about Rifampin

Your skin test showed that you have the germs in your body that cause tuberculosis (TB). You don't feel sick because the TB germs are not active now. You cannot spread TB to others when the germs are not active. You have a 1 in 10 chance that the germs will become active in the future if you don't take this medicine. You have been given a medicine called Rifampin to keep the TB germs from becoming active and causing you to become sick. Follow the instructions on this guide so the medicine can work its best for you.

**Take your medicine every day at the same time. It is best to take your medicine on an empty stomach.**

- Take your medicine at least one hour before meals **OR** at least 2 hours after meals **OR** at bed time. You can take your medicine with milk, water, juice, soda, coffee or tea.
- If your medicine causes upset stomach, you can take it with food.
- If you are taking an antacid (like Maalox or Mylanta), take it 1 hour before or 2 hours after taking Rifampin.

**If you forget to take your medicine do *not* try to catch up the next day.** Take your medicine like you usually do the next day. If you forget too many pills, the medicine will not work as well as it should. Tell the TB nurse if you can't remember to take your pills.

### **Do not drink alcohol.**

**Warning:** Drinking alcohol (wine, beer, liquor) while taking Rifampin can damage your liver.

### **Tell the TB nurse:**

- about ALL medicines you are taking, including dietary and herbal supplements.
- about any health problems or conditions you have.
- about any allergies you have.
- if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

### **Rifampin may interact with other drugs.**

- Rifampin makes birth control pills less effective. Use another method of birth control (condoms) with your pills to prevent pregnancy.
- Tell the TB nurse if you are taking blood thinners (like Coumadin). The doctor may need to change the dose.

**Tell other doctors who you go to that you are taking Rifampin.**

*(continued)*

**Rifampin is very safe.** Most people don't have any side effects. However, Rifampin may cause saliva, sweat, tears, urine or stool to turn orange or red. This is normal. Rifampin may permanently stain soft contact lenses.

**If you have any of the following side effects, stop taking your Rifampin and call the TB Nurse at \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Yellowish skin
- Loss of appetite
- Stomach cramps
- Unexplained fever
- Dark urine
- Unexplained tiredness
- Nausea/vomiting
- Menstrual periods that last longer than usual
- Unexplained bruising
- Joint pain or leg cramps
- Bleeding that takes longer than usual to stop

***If side effects occur on weekends,*** please call your primary care provider or go to the local emergency room. Take your medicine with you to show the doctor.