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## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Baloxavir Marboxil

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

## Brand Names: US

Xofluza (40 MG Dose); Xofluza (80 MG Dose)

## Brand Names: Canada

Xofluza (20 MG Dose); Xofluza (80 MG Dose)

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat the flu.
- It is used to lower the chance of giving the flu to other people.
- It is used to prevent the flu after contact with someone who has the flu.

## What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If the patient is a child younger than 5 years of age. This drug is not approved for use in children younger than 5 years of age.

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health

problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

## What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Talk with your doctor before getting a nasal flu vaccine after taking this drug or if you have recently gotten a nasal flu vaccine. The nasal flu vaccine may not work as well.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

## What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Dizziness or passing out.

## What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Diarrhea, upset stomach, or throwing up.
- Signs of a common cold.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Headache.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at <https://www.fda.gov/medwatch>.

## How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

### All products:

- Take this drug as soon as you can within 48 hours after the start of flu-like signs or contact with someone who has the flu.
- Take with or without food.
- Do not take this drug at the same time as dairy products or other foods or drinks with calcium in them. Do not take this drug at the same time as antacids, laxatives, or other products that have calcium, iron, aluminum, magnesium, selenium, or zinc. If you have questions, talk with your doctor or pharmacist.

## **Oral suspension (bottle):**

- This drug will be mixed by a doctor or pharmacist.
- Swirl the bottle well before use. Do not shake.
- Sit or stand while taking this drug. Do not take this drug while lying down.
- Do not mix with any other foods or liquids.
- Take this drug within 10 hours after it was mixed. If you do not take this drug within 10 hours after it was mixed, throw it away and call your doctor or pharmacist.
- Some doses may need more than 1 bottle or less than 1 bottle of this drug. Be sure you know how much of this drug to take for your dose. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.
- Those who have feeding tubes may use this drug. Use as you have been told. Flush the feeding tube after this drug is given.

## **Oral suspension (packets):**

- Mix 1 packet in a small container with 15 to 20 mL room temperature drinking water. Swirl the container for 1 minute or until the powder is fully dissolved. Drink right away after mixing. Do not store for use at a later time. If you need more than 1 packet for your dose, mix and take the packets separately. Do not put them together.
- Those who have feeding tubes may use this drug. Use as you have been told. Flush the feeding tube after this drug is given.

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

- Only 1 dose of this drug is needed. If you miss your dose, take it as soon as you think about it.

# How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

## All products:

- Store in the original container at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

## Oral suspension:

- Protect from heat.

## General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

# Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms>.

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](https://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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