Foscarnet is not recommended during:

- Tranquilisers (neuroleptics).
- Laxatives.
- Ciclosporin A, methotrexate or antibiotics called aminoglycosides, Aciclovir (for viral infections).
- Amphotericin B (for fungal infections).
- Pentamidine (for infections).

If you are already having any of the following medicines:

- You are not allowed to take any other medicines. This includes any medicines that you buy without a prescription and herbal medicines.
- In particular, tell your doctor or nurse before having Foscarnet.

Foscarnet contains a medicine called foscarnet. This belongs to a group of medicines called phosphates or potassium (by stopping viruses from multiplying in numbers).

Foscarnet is used to treat the following infections that are caused by viruses:

- An eye infection in people with AIDS. The virus is called cytomegalovirus (CMV) and the infection is known as CMV retinitis.
- Foscarnet stops the infection from getting any worse but it cannot repair the damage that has already happened.
- Foscarnet is given to people who have AIDS and a weakened immune system. It is given to people who have not got better from HIV after having a medicine called AZT/3TC.

Foscarnet contains a medicine called foscarnet. This belongs to a group of medicines called phosphates or potassium (by stopping viruses from multiplying in numbers).

Foscarnet is used to treat the following infections that are caused by viruses:

- An eye infection in people with AIDS. The virus is called cytomegalovirus (CMV) and the infection is known as CMV retinitis.
- Foscarnet stops the infection from getting any worse but it cannot repair the damage that has already happened.
- Foscarnet is given to people who have AIDS and a weakened immune system. It is given to people who have not got better from HIV after having a medicine called AZT/3TC.

What you need to know before you have Foscarnet:

- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to foscarnet or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6), do not have Foscarnet.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or nurse.
- Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking Foscarnet. It contains details of some side effects that you may in rare cases experience.
- If you need to have Foscarnet, talk to your doctor or nurse before having Foscarnet.
- You may need blood and urine tests before and during your treatment. The first stage is called induction therapy and the second stage is called maintenance therapy.
- It is important to have plenty of fluid (5.5 mg) of sodium per ml. This should be taken into consideration by patients on a low sodium diet, as well as tell your doctor or nurse if you are on a low sodium (salt) diet.
- Foscarnet contains sodium foscarnet 240 micromoles (5.5 mg) of sodium per ml. This should be taken into consideration by patients on a low sodium diet, as well as tell your doctor or nurse if you are on a low sodium (salt) diet.
- Foscarnet contains a medicine called foscarnet. This belongs to a group of medicines called phosphates or potassium (by stopping viruses from multiplying in numbers).

Foscarnet is used to treat the following infections that are caused by viruses:

- An eye infection in people with AIDS. The virus is called cytomegalovirus (CMV) and the infection is known as CMV retinitis.
- Foscarnet stops the infection from getting any worse but it cannot repair the damage that has already happened.
- Foscarnet is given to people who have AIDS and a weakened immune system. It is given to people who have not got better from HIV after having a medicine called AZT/3TC.

What you need to know before you have Foscarnet:

- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to foscarnet or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6), do not have Foscarnet.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or nurse.
- Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking Foscarnet. It contains details of some side effects that you may in rare cases experience.
- If you need to have Foscarnet, talk to your doctor or nurse before having Foscarnet.
- You may need blood and urine tests before and during your treatment. The first stage is called induction therapy and the second stage is called maintenance therapy.
- It is important to have plenty of fluid (5.5 mg) of sodium per ml. This should be taken into consideration by patients on a low sodium diet, as well as tell your doctor or nurse if you are on a low sodium (salt) diet.
- Foscarnet contains sodium foscarnet 240 micromoles (5.5 mg) of sodium per ml. This should be taken into consideration by patients on a low sodium diet, as well as tell your doctor or nurse if you are on a low sodium (salt) diet.
- Foscarnet contains a medicine called foscarnet. This belongs to a group of medicines called phosphates or potassium (by stopping viruses from multiplying in numbers).

Foscarnet is used to treat the following infections that are caused by viruses:

- An eye infection in people with AIDS. The virus is called cytomegalovirus (CMV) and the infection is known as CMV retinitis.
- Foscarnet stops the infection from getting any worse but it cannot repair the damage that has already happened.
- Foscarnet is given to people who have AIDS and a weakened immune system. It is given to people who have not got better from HIV after having a medicine called AZT/3TC.
4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them.

Some side effects can be serious and need immediate medical attention:

- Severe rash or skin reactions that include a fall in blood pressure, shock and swelling of the face, lips, mouth and throat (anaphylaxis). They are known as hypersensitivity, anaphylactic or anaphylactoid reactions.
- Severe skin rash.

These types of rash can occur with or without redness, swelling, and blisters of the skin. They may also affect other places inside the body and can lead to death. They are called erythema multiforme.

- Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis.

If you get any of the above, tell your doctor straight away or go to the nearest emergency unit.

Other side effects include:

- Common

(affects less than 1 in 10 people)

- Loss of appetite.
- General feeling unwell.
- Headache.
- Feeling dizzy.
- Feeling weak or tired.
- Feeling or being sick.
- Diarrhoea.
- Loss of appetite.

(affects more than 1 in 10 people)

- Fever or being sick.
- Feeling weak or tired.
- High temperature or chills.
- Feeling dizzy.
- Headache.
- Pins and needles.
- Skin rash.
- Changes in how well your kidneys are working (shown in blood tests).
- Low blood pressure. This may make you feel dizzy in the fridge.
- Foscavir may be mixed with another liquid by a pharmacist. This is to give you the correct dose and make it easier to use. The pharmacist will tell you how to store it and when to use it by.
- Do not throw away any medicines you no longer use.

- Uncommon

(affects less than 1 in 10 people)

- An itchy rash (urticaria).
- Too much acid in the blood. This may make you breathe more quickly.

The following side effects have also been reported (frequency not known)

- Unusual heart beat.
- An ulcer in your oesophagus (the passage from food to the throat in the stomach). This may be painful.
- Severe muscle problems with a breakdown of your muscle tissue (rhabdomyolysis). These changes include abnormal urine colour and severe muscle weakness, tenderness or stiffness.
- Blood in your water (urine).

5. How to store Foscavir

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the label. The expiry date refers to the last of that day.
- Do not store it at temperatures above 30°C. Do not put them in the fridge.
- Foscavir may be mixed with another liquid by a pharmacist. This is to give you the correct dose and make it easier to use. The pharmacist will tell you how to store it and when to use it by.
- Do not throw away any medicines you no longer use.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Foscavir contains

- The active substance is foscarnet.
- There is 24 mg of foscarnet in each millilitre (ml) of solution.

What Foscavir looks like and contents of the pack

Foscavir is a sterile solution for infusion. The solution is clear and colourless. Foscavir contains in bottles containing 250 ml.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

The Marketing Authorisation for Foscavir is held by Fresenius Kabi, 324, 1st Floor, Piturn House, First Avenue, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 2WW, UK.

Foscavir is manufactured by Fresenius Kabi Austria GmbH, Hafnerstrasse 36, A-8055 Graz, Austria.

The Marketing Authorisation for Foscavir is held by Fresenius Kabi, 324, 1st Floor, Piturn House, First Avenue, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 2WW, UK.

Reference number

31644/0001

This is a service provided by the Royal National Institute of Blind People.

To listen or to request a copy of this leaflet in Braille, large print or audio please call, free of charge: 0800 198 5000 (UK only)

Please be ready to give the following information:

Product name

Foscavir

This leaflet was last revised in June 2017.

© Clinigen Healthcare Ltd.

Foscavir is a trademark of Clinigen Healthcare.