

PACKAGE INFORMATION FOR THE USER

FLUOXETINE 20mg CAPSULES
Fluoxetine Hydrochloride

EIGHT IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FLUOXETINE 20mg CAPSULES

Fluoxetine treats depression and anxiety disorders.

Like all medicines it can have unwanted effects. It is therefore important that you and your doctor weigh up the benefits of treatment against the possible unwanted effects, before starting treatment.

Fluoxetine is not for use in children and adolescents under 18.

Fluoxetine won't work straight away. Some people taking antidepressants feel worse before feeling better. Your doctor should ask to see you again a couple of weeks after you first start treatment. Tell your doctor if you haven't started feeling better. See section 3, How to take Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules.

Some people who are depressed or anxious think of harming or killing themselves. If you start to feel worse, or think of harming or killing yourself, **see your doctor or go to a hospital straight away.** See section 2.

Don't stop taking Fluoxetine without talking to your doctor. If you stop taking Fluoxetine suddenly or miss a dose, you may get withdrawal effects. See section 3 for further information.

If you feel restless and feel like you can't sit or stand still, tell your doctor. Increasing the dose of Fluoxetine may make these feelings worse. See section 4, Possible side-effects.

Taking some other medicines with Fluoxetine can cause problems. You may need to talk to your doctor. See section 2, Other medicines and Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules.

If you are pregnant or planning to get pregnant, talk to your doctor. See section 2, Pregnancy and breast-feeding.

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules are and what they are used for
2. What you need to know before you take Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules
3. How to take Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What fluoxetine 20mg capsules are and what they are used for

Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules contain the active substance fluoxetine hydrochloride which is one of a group of medicines called selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRI) antidepressants. It is used to treat depression, the eating disorder bulimia nervosa, disorders characterised by obsessive-compulsive actions and Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (severe form of Premenstrual tension)

How Fluoxetine works

Everyone has a substance called serotonin in their brain. People who are depressed or have obsessive-compulsive disorder or bulimia nervosa have lower levels of serotonin than others. It is not fully understood how Fluoxetine and other SSRIs work but they may help by increasing the level of serotonin in the brain. Treating these conditions is important to help you get better. If it's not treated, your condition may not go away and may become more serious and more difficult to treat.

You may need to be treated for a few weeks or months to ensure that you are free from symptoms.

2. What you need to know before you take fluoxetine 20mg capsules

Do not take Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules if

- You are allergic to Fluoxetine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6). If you develop a rash or other allergic reactions (like itching, swollen lips or face or shortness of breath), stop taking the capsules straight away and contact your doctor immediately.
 - You are taking other medicines known as irreversible, non-selective monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs), since serious or even fatal reactions can occur.
- Treatment with Fluoxetine should only be started at least 2 weeks after discontinuation of an irreversible, non-selective MAOI.
- Do not take any irreversible, non-selective MAOIs for at least 5 weeks after you stop taking Fluoxetine.** If Fluoxetine has been prescribed for a long period and/or at a high dose, a longer interval needs to be considered by your doctor.
- You are taking metoprolol (to treat heart failure) since there is an increased risk of your heartbeat becoming too slow.

Warnings and precautions

Medicines like Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules (so called SSRIs/SNRIs) may cause symptoms of sexual dysfunctions (see section 4). In some cases, these symptoms have continued after stopping treatment.

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Fluoxetine if you have:

- Heart problems.
- Appearance of fever, muscle stiffness or tremor, changes in your mental state like confusion, irritability and extreme agitation; you may suffer from the so-called "serotonin syndrome" or "neuroleptic malignant syndrome". Although this syndrome occurs rarely it may result in potentially life threatening conditions; **contact your doctor immediately**, since Fluoxetine might need to be discontinued.
- Mania now or in the past; if you have a manic episode, contact your doctor immediately because Fluoxetine might need to be discontinued.
- History of bleeding disorders or appearance of bruises or unusual bleeding or if you are pregnant (see 'Pregnancy'¹⁾).
- Ongoing treatment with medicines that thin the blood (see 'Other medicines and Fluoxetine').
- Epilepsy or fits. If you have a fit (seizures) or experience an increase in seizure frequency, contact your doctor immediately; Fluoxetine might need to be discontinued.
- Ongoing ECT (electro-convulsive therapy)
- Ongoing treatment with tamoxifen (used to treat breast cancer) (see 'Other medicines and Fluoxetine').
- Starting to feel restless and cannot sit or stand still (akathisia). Increasing your dose of Fluoxetine may make this worse.
- Diabetes (your doctor may need to adjust your dose of insulin or other antidiabetic treatment).
- Liver problems (your doctor may need to adjust your dosage).
- Low resting heart-rate and/or if you know that you may have salt depletion as a result of prolonged severe diarrhoea and vomiting (being sick) or usage of diuretics (water tablets).
- Ongoing treatment with diuretics (water tablets), especially if you are elderly.
- Glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye).

The use of Buprenorphine together with Fluoxetine can lead to serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition (see "Other medicines and Fluoxetine").

Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your depression or anxiety disorder.

If you are depressed and/or have anxiety disorders you can sometimes have thoughts of harming or killing yourself. These may be increased when first starting antidepressants, since these medicines all take time to work, usually about two weeks but sometimes longer.

You may be more likely to think like this:

- If you have previously had thoughts about killing or harming yourself.
- If you are a young adult. Information from clinical trials has shown an increased risk of suicidal behaviour in adults aged less than 25 years with psychiatric conditions who were treated with an antidepressant.

If you have thoughts of harming or killing yourself at any time, **contact your doctor or go to hospital straight away.**

You may find it helpful to tell a relative or close friend that you are depressed or have an anxiety disorder, and ask them to read this leaflet. You might ask them to tell you if they think your depression or anxiety is getting worse, or if they are worried about changes in your behaviour.

Children

Do not give this medicine to children because it is unlikely to be safe.

Other medicines and Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Some medicines may increase the side effects of Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules and may sometimes cause very serious reactions. Do not take any other medicines whilst taking Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules without first talking to your doctor, especially:

- **buprenorphine/opioids.** These medicines may interact with Fluoxetine and you may experience symptoms such as involuntary, rhythmic contractions of muscles, including the muscles that control movement of the eye, agitation, hallucinations, coma, excessive sweating, tremor, exaggeration of reflexes, increased muscle tension, body temperature above 38°C. Contact your doctor when experiencing such symptoms.

Do not take Fluoxetine with:

- **Certain irreversible, non-selective monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs),** used to treat depression. Irreversible, non-selective MAOIs must not be used with Fluoxetine as serious or even fatal reactions (serotonin syndrome) can occur (see section "Do not take Fluoxetine"). Treatment with Fluoxetine should only be started at least 2 weeks after discontinuation of an irreversible, non-selective MAOI (for instance tranylcypromine). **Do not take any irreversible, non-selective MAOIs for at least 5 weeks after you stop taking Fluoxetine.** If Fluoxetine has been prescribed for a long period and/or at a high dose, a longer interval than 5 weeks may need to be considered by your doctor.
- **Metoprolol** when used for heart failure; there is an increased risk of your heart beat becoming too slow.

Fluoxetine may affect the way the following medicines work (interact):

- **Tamoxifen** (used to treat breast cancer); because Fluoxetine may change the blood levels of this drug, resulting in the possibility of a reduction in the effect of tamoxifen, your doctor may need to consider prescribing a different antidepressant treatment.
- **Monoamine oxidase inhibitors A (MAOI-A)** including moclobemide, linezolid (an antibiotic) and methylthionium chloride (also called methylene blue, used for the treatment of medicinal or chemical product induced methemoglobinemia); due to the risk of serious or even fatal reactions (called serotonin syndrome). Treatment with Fluoxetine can be started the day after stopping treatment with reversible MAOIs but the doctor may wish to monitor you carefully and use a lower dose of the MAOI-A drug.
- **Mequitazine** (for allergies); because taking this drug with Fluoxetine may increase the risk of changes in the electrical activity of the heart.
- **Phenytoin** (for epilepsy); because Fluoxetine may influence the blood levels of this drug, your doctor may need to introduce phenytoin more carefully and carry out check-ups when given with Fluoxetine.
- **Lithium, selegiline, St. John's Wort, tramadol** (a painkiller), **triptans** (for migraine) and **tryptophan**; there is an increased risk of mild serotonin syndrome when these drugs are taken with Fluoxetine. Your doctor will carry out more frequent check-ups.
- Medicines that may affect the heart's rhythm, e.g. **Class IA and III antiarrhythmics, antipsychotics** (e.g. phenothiazine derivatives, pimozide, haloperidol), **tricyclic antidepressants**, certain **antimicrobial agents** (e.g. sparfloxacin, mofloxacin, erythromycin IV, pentamidine), **anti-malaria treatment** particularly halofantrine or certain **antihistamines** (astemizole, mizolastine), because taking one or more of these drugs with Fluoxetine may increase the risk of changes in the electrical activity of the heart.
- **Anti-coagulants** (such as warfarin), **NSAID** (such as ibuprofen, diclofenac), **aspirin and other medicines which can thin the blood** (including clozapine, used to treat certain mental disorders). Fluoxetine may alter the effect of these medicines on the blood. If Fluoxetine treatment is started or stopped when you are taking warfarin, your doctor will need to perform certain tests, adjust your dose and check on you more frequently.
- **Cyproheptadine** (for allergies); because it may reduce the effect of Fluoxetine.
- **Drugs that lower sodium levels in the blood** (including drugs that cause increase in urination, desmopressin, carbamazepine and oxcarbazepine); because these drugs may increase the risk of sodium levels in the blood becoming too low when taken with Fluoxetine.
- **Anti-depressants** such as tricyclic antidepressants, other selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or bupropion, **mefloquine or chloroquine** (used to treat malaria), **tramadol** (used to treat severe pain) or **anti-epileptics** such as phenothiazine or butyrophenes; because Fluoxetine may increase the risk of seizures when taken with these medicines.
- **Flecainide, propafenone, nebivolol or encainide** (for heart problems), **carbamazepine** (for epilepsy), **atomoxetine or tricyclic antidepressants** (for example imipramine, desipramine and amitriptyline) or **risperidone** (for schizophrenia); because Fluoxetine may possibly change the blood levels of these medicines, your doctor may need to lower their dose when administered with Fluoxetine.

Fluoxetine with food, drink and alcohol

- You can take Fluoxetine with or without food, whatever you prefer.
- You should avoid alcohol while you are taking this medicine.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Pregnancy

Talk to your doctor as soon as possible if you're pregnant, if you might be pregnant, or if you're planning to become pregnant.

In babies whose mothers took Fluoxetine during the first few months of pregnancy, there have been some studies describing an increased risk

150 x 600 mm

Front page

ARTWORK DETAIL LABEL

Product	FLUOXETINE Capsules 20mg		
Buyer/Country	Strides Pharma UK Ltd.	Component	Pack Insert
Dimension	150 x 600 mm	Pack	----
New Item Code	1047546	Old Item Code	1043247
Colour Shades	■ Black	No. of Colours	1
Change Control No.	PC-TSG/2022/050 - Record Number: 333166		Artwork Version 9.0
Design/Style	Front & Back Printing. To be supplied in the folded size 150 x 300 mm.		
Substrate	60 GSM Paper.		
Special Instructions	PRINTING CLARITY TO BE CLEAR AND SHARP		
Autocartonator Requirements	Pack insert supply should be as per auto-cartonator. Refer auto-cartonator drawing for instructions.		
Caution to the printer: Before processing, please ensure that the ARTWORK received for printing is exactly in line with APPROVED ARTWORK provided to you. In case of any FONTS/DESIGN are Mis-matching with the APPROVED ARTWORK, please inform PDC for further action. DO NOT MAKE ANY CHANGE TO THE ARTWORK WITHOUT WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS FROM PDC.			

of birth defects affecting the heart. In the general population, about 1 in 100 babies are born with a heart defect. This increased to about 2 in 100 babies in mothers who took Fluoxetine.

When taken during pregnancy, particularly in the last 3 months of pregnancy, medicines like fluoxetine may increase the risk of a serious condition in babies, called persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN), making the baby breathe faster and appear bluish. These symptoms usually begin during the first 24 hours after the baby is born. If this happens to your baby you should contact your midwife and/or doctor immediately.

It is preferable not to use this treatment during pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk. Thus, you and your doctor may decide to gradually stop taking Fluoxetine while you are pregnant or before being pregnant. However, depending on your circumstances, your doctor may suggest that it is better for you to keep taking Fluoxetine.

Caution should be exercised when used during pregnancy, especially during late pregnancy or just before giving birth since the following effects have been reported in new born children: irritability, tremor, muscle weakness, persistent crying and difficulty in sucking or in sleeping.

¹ If you take Fluoxetine near the end of your pregnancy there may be an increased risk of heavy vaginal bleeding shortly after birth, especially if you have a history of bleeding disorders. Your doctor or midwife should be aware that you are taking Fluoxetine so they can advise you.

Breast-feeding

Fluoxetine is excreted in breast milk and can cause side effects in babies. You should only breast-feed if it is clearly necessary. If breast-feeding is continued, your doctor may prescribe a lower dose of fluoxetine.

Fertility

Fluoxetine has been shown to reduce the quality of sperm in animal studies. Theoretically, this could affect fertility, but impact on human fertility has not been observed as yet.

Driving and using machines

Psychotropic drugs such as Fluoxetine may affect your judgment or co-ordination. Do not drive or use machinery until you know Fluoxetine affects you.

Information on sodium content

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per capsule, i.e. is essentially 'sodium-free'.

3. How to take fluoxetine 20mg capsules

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. Do not take more capsules than your doctor tells you.

Swallow the capsules with a drink of water. Do not chew the capsules.

Adults:

The recommended dose is:

- **Depression:** The recommended dose is 1 capsule (20 mg) daily. Your doctor will review and adjust your dosage if necessary within 3 to 4 weeks of the start of treatment. If required, the dosage can be gradually increased to a maximum of 3 capsules (60 mg) daily. The dose should be increased carefully to ensure that you receive the lowest effective dose. You may not feel better immediately when you first start taking your medicine for depression. This is usual because an improvement in depressive symptoms may not occur until after the first few weeks. Patients with depression should be treated for at least 6 months.
- **Bulimia nervosa:** The recommended dose is 3 capsules (60 mg) daily.
- **Obsessive-compulsive disorder:** The recommended dose is 1 capsule (20 mg) daily. Your doctor will review and adjust your dosage if necessary after 2 weeks of treatment. If required, the dosage can be gradually increased up to a maximum of 3 capsules (60 mg) daily. If no improvement in noted within 10 weeks, your doctor will reconsider your treatment.
- **Pre-menstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMD):** The recommended dose is 1 capsule (20 mg) daily. This may be increased by your doctor. Treatment should be limited to 6 months.

Use in children:

Fluoxetine is not recommended for use in children.

Elderly:

Your doctor will increase the dose with more caution and the daily dose should generally not exceed 2 capsules (40 mg). The maximum dose is 3 capsules (60 mg) daily.

Liver impairment:

If you have a liver problem or are using other medication that might affect Fluoxetine, your doctor may decide to prescribe a lower dose or tell you to use Fluoxetine every other day.

If you take more Fluoxetine than you should

- If you take too many capsules, go to your nearest hospital emergency department (or casualty) or tell your doctor straight away.
- Take the pack of Fluoxetine with you if you can.

Symptoms of overdose include: nausea, vomiting, seizures, heart problems (like irregular heart beat and cardiac arrest), lung problems and change in mental condition ranging from agitation to coma.

If you forget to take Fluoxetine

- If you miss a dose, do not worry. Take your next dose the next day at the usual time. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.
- Taking your medicine at the same time each day may help you to remember to take it regularly.

If you stop taking Fluoxetine

- **Do not** stop taking Fluoxetine without asking your doctor first, even when you start to feel better. It is important that you keep taking your medicine.
- Make sure you do not run out of capsules.

You may notice the following effects (withdrawal effects) when you stop taking Fluoxetine:

dizziness, tingling feelings like pins and needles, sleep disturbances (vivid dreams, nightmares, inability to sleep), feeling restless or agitated, unusual tiredness or weakness, feeling anxious, nausea/vomiting (feeling sick or being sick), tremor (shakiness), headaches.

Most people find that any symptoms on stopping Fluoxetine are mild and disappear within a few weeks. If you experience symptoms when you stop treatment, contact your doctor.

When stopping Fluoxetine, your doctor will help you to reduce your dose slowly over one to two weeks - this should help reduce the chance of withdrawal effects.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

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

- If you have thoughts of harming or killing yourself at any time, **contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away** (see Section 2).
- If you get a rash or allergic reaction such as itching, swollen lips/tongue or wheezing/shortness of breath, **stop taking the capsules straight away and tell your doctor immediately.**
- If you feel restless and cannot sit or stand still, you may have akathisia; increasing your dose of Fluoxetine may make you feel worse. If you feel like this, **contact your doctor.**
- **Tell your doctor immediately** if your skin starts to turn red or you develop a varied skin reaction or your skin starts to blister or peel. This is very rare.

The most frequent side effects (very common side effects that may affect more than 1 user in 10) are insomnia, headache, diarrhoea, feeling sick (nausea) and fatigue.

Some patients have had:

- A combination of symptoms (known as "serotonin syndrome") including unexplained fever with faster breathing or heart rate, sweating, muscle stiffness or tremor, confusion, extreme agitation or sleepiness (only rarely);
- Feelings of weakness, drowsiness or confusion mostly in elderly people and in (elderly) people taking diuretics (water tablets);
- Prolonged and painful erection;
- Irritability and extreme agitation.
- Heart problems such as fast or irregular heart rate, fainting, collapsing or dizziness upon standing which may indicate abnormal functioning of the heart rate.

If you have any of the above side effects, you should tell your doctor immediately.

The following side effects have also been reported in patients taking Fluoxetine:

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- not feeling hungry, weight loss
- nervousness, anxiety
- restlessness, poor concentration
- feeling tense
- decreased sex drive or sexual problems (including difficulty maintaining an erection for sexual activity)
- sleep problems, unusual dreams, tiredness or sleepiness
- dizziness
- change in taste
- uncontrollable shaking movements
- blurred vision
- rapid and irregular heartbeat sensations
- flushing
- yawning
- indigestion, vomiting
- dry mouth
- rash, urticaria, itching
- excessive sweating
- joint pain
- passing urine more frequently
- unexplained vaginal bleeding
- feeling shaky or chills

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- feeling detached from yourself
- strange thinking
- abnormally high mood
- orgasm problems
- thoughts of suicide or harming yourself
- teeth grinding
- muscle twitching, involuntary movements or problems with balance or co-ordination
- memory impairment
- enlarged (dilated) pupils
- ringing in the ears
- low blood pressure
- shortness of breath
- difficulty swallowing
- hair loss
- increased tendency to bruising
- unexplained bruising or bleeding
- cold sweat
- difficulty passing urine
- feeling hot or cold
- feeling abnormal or out of sorts
- nose bleeds
- abnormal liver function tests

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- low levels of salt in the blood
- reduction in blood platelets, which increases risk of bleeding or bruising
- reduction in white blood cell count
- untypical wild behavior
- hallucinations
- agitation
- panic attacks
- fits
- vasculitis (inflammation of a blood vessel)
- rapid swelling of the tissues around the neck, face, mouth and/or throat
- pain in the tube that takes food or water to your stomach
- confusion
- stuttering
- hepatitis
- lung problems
- sensitivity to light
- muscle pain
- problems urinating
- producing breast milk.

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- heavy vaginal bleeding shortly after birth (postpartum haemorrhage), see (see 'Pregnancy' 1) in section 2 for more information

Bone fractures - an increased risk of bone fractures has been observed in patients taking this type of medicines.

Most of these side effects are likely to disappear with continued treatment.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store fluoxetine 20mg capsules

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 carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 25°C and keep in its original container.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules contains

The active substance is Fluoxetine Hydrochloride.

The other ingredients are pregelatinised maize starch, anhydrous colloidal silica, magnesium stearate and talc.

The capsule shell contains quinoline yellow (E104), erythrosine (E127), indigo carmine (E132), titanium dioxide (E171), gelatin, shellac (E904), black iron oxide (E172), soya lecithin (E322) and antifoam DC 1510.

What Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules looks like and contents of the pack

Hard Gelatin Capsule cap is light green opaque. Capsule body is standard yellow opaque.

Markings are "CX59".

Round HDPE tablet container and white LDPE snap on cap with PP liner or blister packs containing 28 or 30 capsules.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Strides Pharma UK Ltd.

Unit 4, Metro Centre, Tolpits Lane, Watford, Herts, WD18 9SS, UK

Tel: 01923 255580

Fax: 01923 255581

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ARTWORK DETAIL LABEL

Product	FLUOXETINE Capsules 20mg		
Buyer/Country	Strides Pharma UK Ltd.	Component	Pack Insert
Dimension	150 x 600 mm	Pack	----
New Item Code	1047546	Old Item Code	1043247
Colour Shades	█ Black	No. of Colours	1
Change Control No.	PC-TSG/2022/050 - Record Number: 333166		Artwork Version 9.0
Design/Style	Front & Back Printing. To be supplied in the folded size 150 x 300 mm.		
Substrate	60 GSM Paper.		
Special Instructions	PRINTING CLARITY TO BE CLEAR AND SHARP		
Autocartanator Requirements	Pack insert supply should be as per auto-cartanator. Refer auto-cartanator drawing for instructions.		
Caution to the printer: Before processing, please ensure that the ARTWORK received for printing is exactly in line with APPROVED ARTWORK provided to you. In case of any FONTS/DESIGN are Mis-matching with the APPROVED ARTWORK, please inform PDC for further action. DO NOT MAKE ANY CHANGE TO THE ARTWORK WITHOUT WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS FROM PDC.			