

**Package leaflet: Information for the patient**  
**Glipizide 5 mg Tablets**  
(glipizide)

**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 or pharmacist.
- 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 or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

**What is in this leaflet:**

1. What Glipizide is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Glipizide
3. How to take Glipizide
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Glipizide
6. Contents of the pack and other information

**1. What Glipizide is and what it is used for**

This medicine contains glipizide which is one of a group of medicines called sulfonylureas.

Glipizide is used to treat diabetes (Type II, non-insulin-dependent diabetes) and helps to lower your blood glucose (sugar) levels, when a change in diet alone is not enough to control the condition.

Diabetics produce too much glucose due to a lack of insulin in the body. This can be controlled by glipizide, which reduces high blood glucose (sugar) levels by increasing insulin production.

You must talk to a doctor if you do not feel better or if you feel worse after taking this medicine.

**2. What you need to know before you take Glipizide**

**Do not take Glipizide if you:**

- are allergic to glipizide, similar antidiabetic medicines (sulfonylureas or sulfonamides) or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- have insulin-dependent diabetes (also called juvenile or Type I diabetes) which would have probably started in your childhood
- have ketone bodies and sugar in your urine (this may mean you have diabetic ketoacidosis)
- suffer from episodes of unconsciousness (this may mean you have diabetic coma)
- have problems with your kidneys or liver
- suffer from thyroid problems
- are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or breast-feeding
- are currently taking miconazole to treat a fungal infection

**Warnings and precautions**

**Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Glipizide if:**

- you have been told that you have problems with your adrenal or pituitary glands
- you are about to have major surgery, have had a recent injury (trauma) or develop a fever or severe infection. (See Section 3 “If you are going to have an operation” for further information).
- you suffer from G6PD deficiency (a disease that causes abnormal destruction of your red blood cells).

You should test your blood and urine glucose regularly, particularly if you are elderly, debilitated or malnourished. If the results of the tests are outside the limits recommended by your doctor you should contact them immediately.

Glipizide can cause hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar levels), which is characterised by confusion, faintness, sweating, dizziness, drowsiness, headache, shakiness (tremor) and visual disturbances. (These symptoms may also be unrelated to hypoglycaemia). Low blood sugar levels can be prevented by taking a regular intake of carbohydrates (e.g. bread, or other products containing starch/sugar). You should eat regular meals, and not exercise heavily or for a long period without eating something first.

### **Other medicines and Glipizide**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Do not take Glipizide with miconazole (used to treat fungal infections) (see 'Do not take Glipizide').

### **Taking the following medicines with Glipizide may reduce your blood sugar levels too much:**

- Fluconazole or voriconazole (used to treat fungal infections).
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (used to treat muscle and joint pain e.g. phenylbutazone).
- Aspirin or aspirin like medicines known as salicylates (usually used as pain killers).
- Beta-blockers (used to treat high blood pressure and certain heart conditions e.g. propranolol).
- Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors (used to treat high blood pressure e.g. captopril).
- Cimetidine (used to treat stomach and duodenal ulcers and other digestive disorders).
- Sulfonamides or chloramphenicol (used to treat bacterial infections).
- Quinolones (used to treat bacterial infections).
- Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (used to treat depression).
- Probenecid (drugs used to treat gout).
- Coumarin anticoagulants (used to treat blood clots e.g. warfarin).
- Fibrates (used to treat high cholesterol e.g. clofibrate).
- Medicines to treat bacterial infections called quinolones (e.g. ciprofloxacin)

### **Taking the following medicines with Glipizide may increase your blood sugar levels:**

- Danazol (a hormone treatment).
- Phenothiazines tranquillisers (used to treat psychiatric conditions e.g. chlorpromazine, thioridazine).
- Corticosteroids (used to treat inflammatory conditions (e.g. prednisolone).
- Sympathomimetic agents, such as nasal decongestants and bronchodilators used to treat asthma (e.g. salbutamol, ritodrine, terbutaline, isoprenaline).
- Hormonal agents containing progesterone or oestrogen, including oral contraceptives (the Pill) and hormone replacement therapy (HRT).
- Thiazides or other diuretics (water tablets e.g. bendroflumethiazide).
- Thyroid products (used to treat patients with a low production of thyroid hormones).
- Phenytoin (used to treat epilepsy).
- Nicotinic acid (used in vitamin supplements and to lower cholesterol and other lipid levels).
- Calcium channel blocking agents (used to treat angina and high blood pressure e.g. nifedipine or verapamil).
- Isoniazid (used to treat tuberculosis).

### **Glipizide with food, drink and alcohol**

As food may delay absorption of the drug, each dose should be taken 30 minutes before food.

Try to avoid alcohol. Alcoholic drinks (wine, beer, spirits) can further increase the reduction in blood sugar levels and could cause unconsciousness (hypoglycaemic coma).

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

Glipizide **must not** be taken during pregnancy or if you are breast-feeding (see section 2, "Do not take Glipizide"). If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

### **Driving and using machines**

**Do not** drive or operate machinery if you feel dizzy, drowsy, suffer from headaches or have difficulty concentrating after taking this medicine.

### **Glipizide contains lactose.**

If your doctor has told you that you have an intolerance to some sugars, such as lactose, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

## **3. How to take Glipizide**

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

Glipizide should only be taken by mouth. It is important that you take your tablets according to the instructions of your doctor. These will be written on the label of the pack. Do not take more Glipizide than your doctor has recommended.

Your dose will be adapted to your individual requirements. Some patients, whose condition is usually controlled by diet alone, may only require Glipizide for a short time.

The recommended dose is:

### **Adults**

The initial dose is usually 5 mg, taken approximately 30 minutes before breakfast or the midday meal, although this may be lower in some patients.

If you are elderly, have mild diabetes or suffer from liver or kidney problems you may be started on 2.5 mg daily.

If your doctor feels your dose needs to be altered, they will instruct you to adjust the dose in small increments, usually in 2.5 – 5 mg steps.

The maximum recommended daily dose is 20 mg.

The label on the pack will tell you what dose you should take and how often to take it. If you are still not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not stop taking the tablets or adjust your dosage without seeing your doctor. Stopping the medicine may make your diabetes worse.

The tablet can be divided into equal doses.

### **Elderly patients, patients with poor diets and patients with kidney or liver disease**

Your doctor may start you on the lower dose of half a tablet (2.5 mg) a day before gradually increasing your dose, as you may be more sensitive to the effects of Glipizide.

### **Use in children**

Glipizide is not recommended for use in children.

### **If you take more Glipizide than you should**

- If you accidentally take too many tablets, seek medical advice immediately.
- If you suffer faintness, confusion, drowsiness, headache, dizziness, sweating or shakiness and visual disturbances, these may be symptoms of low blood sugar. You should eat or drink something sugary.
- If you suffer fits or loss of consciousness occur, someone should seek urgent medical assistance for you.

### **If you forget to take Glipizide**

If you miss a dose, it is important that you take your medicine as soon as you remember or feel faint, otherwise your blood sugar will become too high and you may go into a coma (or fall unconscious). Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

**If you stop taking Glipizide**

Do not stop taking your tablets or alter the dose you are currently taking without seeing your doctor first. Stopping these tablets may make your diabetes worse.

**If you are going to have an operation**

If you are going to have major surgery or you have recently suffered a severe illness or infection, diabetic control may be lost. At such times it may be necessary to temporarily stop using Glipizide and take insulin.

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.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms after taking this medicine:

- An allergic reaction such as wheeziness, difficulty breathing or swelling of the eyelids, face or lips, rash or itching (especially affecting the whole body)
- Reductions in blood cells and blood platelets. This can make the skin pale yellow, cause weakness or breathlessness, or make bruising, bleeding or infections more likely.
- Liver inflammation which can cause nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, feeling generally unwell, fever, itching, light coloured bowel movements, dark coloured urine and jaundice which causes yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes.
- A blood pigment disorder. This can cause blistering or peeling of skin exposed to sunlight, skin darkening or excessive hair growth

In some people, a sudden, severe reaction to alcohol can occur. You may experience a sudden 'hangover' feeling with a throbbing headache, flushed skin, increased heart rate, shortness of breath, feeling or being sick, vision problems, confusion and low blood pressure which may make you dizzy especially on standing up from lying or sitting.

Other side effects that may occur include:

**Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):**

- Low blood sugar (hypoglycaemia – for signs of hypoglycaemia see section 2)
- Feeling sick, diarrhoea or stomach pains. These side effects usually improve if your doctor divides up your dosage during the day

**Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):**

- Dizziness, drowsiness/sleepiness
- Shakiness (tremor), blurred vision, being sick
- Eczema (inflammation of the skin)

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

- Headache
- A reduction in your blood sodium. This can occur if you are dehydrated.
- Confusion
- Double vision, changes in vision (you may find it more difficult to focus or see clearly)
- Constipation
- General feeling of being unwell
- Increased sensitivity of the skin to sunlight
- Skin redness (erythema)
- Itchy skin
- Rash (red, bumpy or measles-like)
- Itching, skin redness or inflammation (dermatitis allergic)
- Pale red, raised, itch bumps (urticaria)

- Abnormal liver function
- Abnormal laboratory results that can be seen with a blood test

The results of some laboratory tests have been affected by this medicine but it is rare for patients to have any symptoms.

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. 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](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5. How to store Glipizide**

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 packaging after “EXP”. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store below 25°C and keep in the original package in order to protect from light.

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 Glipizide contains**

The active substance is glipizide. Each tablet contains 5 mg of glipizide.

The other ingredients are lactose monohydrate (see section 2, ‘Glipizide contains lactose’), maize starch, pregelatinised maize starch and stearic acid.

### **What Glipizide looks like and contents of the pack**

Tablets are white, oval, uncoated and marked “GP” breakline “5” on one side and “G” on the other side.

Glipizide Tablets are available in bottles of 20, 30, 50, 60, 100, 250 and 500 tablets and blister packs of 20, 28, 30, 50, 56, 60 and 100 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Mylan  
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 1TL,  
United Kingdom

### **Manufacturer**

Gerard Laboratories, 35/36 Baldoyle Industrial Estate, Grange Road, Dublin 13, Ireland

Generics [UK] Ltd., Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 1TL, United Kingdom

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