

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services
Drug Information Sheet: **carbamazepine (Tegretol)**

Carbamazepine is used in the treatment of bipolar disorder and schizoaffective disorder to stabilize moods and reduce overactivity, racing thoughts, pressured speech, agitation and insomnia.

Like any medication, carbamazepine can cause some side effects:

Common

drowsiness
stomach cramps
nausea
dizziness

Less Common

skin rash
blurred/double vision
weight changes
hair loss
tremor

Rare

low blood count (anemia)
liver problems
unusual heartbeat

Carbamazepine can be measured in your blood to make sure it is at the right level. Usually, blood levels range from 6-12 mcg/ml.

Carbamazepine needs to be taken as prescribed, without missing or taking extra doses. Missing or taking extra doses could change your carbamazepine blood level.

Your physician will monitor your blood level with you, as well as monitor your blood count and liver function.

Because carbamazepine can cause birth defects, it is important to tell your physician if you become pregnant, or are considering becoming pregnant.