

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services

Drug Information Sheet: **lamotrigine (Lamictal)**

Lamotrigine can be used in the treatment of bipolar disorder to stabilize moods and reduce overactivity, racing thoughts, pressured speech, agitation, and insomnia.

Like any medication, it can cause some side effects:

Common

- Dizziness/drowsiness
- Nausea
- Unsteadiness

Less common

- Mild skin rash
- Headache
- Blurred/double vision

Rare

- Serious skin rash

Mood stabilizers work gradually, and may take up to several weeks to reach their full effect. Don't lose patience; it will take time before you feel better.

Lamotrigine needs to be taken exactly as prescribed, without missing or taking extra doses. Taking extra doses may increase your risk of a serious rash.

Remember, these medications must be taken regularly to have their full beneficial effect.