

Lamotrigine (Lamictal®)

ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Client's Name _____ Date _____

Initial Medication Instructions _____

What does this medication help to treat?

- Bipolar disorder or other conditions
- Mood swings or fluctuations in mood
- Agitation, aggression, or hostility
- Poor concentration, rapid thoughts
- Excessive behavior (e.g. spending, gambling, sex)
- Irritability

Depressive symptoms

- Fatigue or insomnia
- Loss of interest in pleasurable activities
- Social withdrawal
- Decreased energy or activity
- Overwhelming feelings of sadness

Lamotrigine is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your prescriber for more information.

Other Information

- You should start to notice some benefits of this medication within 1 to 2 weeks after initiation of therapy. If you have not experienced benefit after one month of treatment at the prescribed dose, contact your prescriber.
- This medicine may cause birth defects in women taking it during pregnancy. Discuss with your prescriber if you are pregnant or have plans to become pregnant about the benefits vs. risks of taking this medicine. Your prescriber may want you to take folic acid supplements if you become pregnant while on this medicine.

Side Effects and Management

Common (greater than 10 in 100 clients on this medication)

Abdominal pain or nausea	Try taking your medication with food.
Blurred or double vision	Let your prescriber know if you experience these side effects. They will usually go away within a few days of taking lamotrigine.
Clumsiness or unsteadiness	Make sure you know how you will react to this medication before driving or operating machinery.
Dizziness	Get up from laying position slowly. Try dangling your feet over the side of bed prior to rising.
Drowsiness	Talk with your prescriber about moving your dose to bedtime.
Headache	You may take aspirin or acetaminophen to relieve your headache. The headache side effect of this medication should subside over time. Talk to your prescriber if it persists for more than several days.

Uncommon (~1 to 10 in 100 clients on this medication)

Vomiting	Try taking your lamotrigine with food, if vomiting continues, call your prescriber.
Diarrhea	Contact your prescriber if diarrhea persists for more than a few days.
Constipation	Drink lots of fluids, eat plenty of fiber-containing foods (fruits, vegetables).
Tremor	Let your prescriber know if you experience these effects. Your dose may need adjustment.
Joint pain	Let your prescriber know if you experience these effects. Your prescriber may need to adjust your dose.

Rare (less than 1 in 100 clients on this medication)

Call your prescriber immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Severe skin rash
- Sore throat
- Fever
- Flu-like symptoms
- Blistering, peeling, or loosening of the skin
- Muscle cramps
- Sores or ulcers in mouth

References: Clinical Pharmacology, LexiComp 2011

- Swelling of face, mouth, hands, or feet
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Hair loss
- Amnesia
- Bleeding
- Increased heart rate
- Slurred speech
- Seizures or convulsions
- Pain and/or weakness
- Small red or purple spots on skin

NOTE: This information is not intended to cover all possible uses, precautions, interactions, or adverse effects for this medication. If you have further questions about the medications you are taking, check with your healthcare professional.