

# Common Questions About Rifampin

## My Tuberculosis Infection Treatment

**Your health care provider has prescribed Rifampin to treat your tuberculosis (TB) infection. This medicine must be taken every day for four months.** Rifampin can help prevent you from getting sick with active TB disease, a more serious illness, in the future.

### **My TB test is positive, but my chest X-ray is normal. I do not feel sick. Do I need to start taking Rifampin?**

Yes. Even if you do not feel sick right now, you do have TB germs in your body. Taking medicine is the only way to kill the TB germs in your body.

### **What are the side effects of Rifampin?**

Most people can take this medicine without any problems. Rifampin may cause your urine (pee), saliva (spit), tears or sweat to turn an orange-red color. This is normal. The color may fade over time.

### **Can I still take my other medicines, herbal medicines, vitamins or supplements?**

It depends. Some medicines, vitamins and supplements are safe to take with Rifampin. Some are not safe. Tell your provider, nurse or pharmacist about other medicines you take, including over-the-counter medicine, prescription medicine (including birth control), herbal medicine, traditional medicine, vitamins and supplements.

### **Are there any foods or drinks that I should avoid while taking Rifampin?**

Yes. Do not drink alcohol during your four months of treatment. Combining alcohol with Rifampin can damage your liver. There are no known foods to avoid when taking Rifampin.

### **What should I do if I forget to take my medicine?**

If it is still the same day, take your medicine as directed as soon as you remember. If you miss a day, continue taking your medicine as directed. If you forget to take your medicine, call your provider for guidance.



**Stop taking Rifampin and call your provider's office right away if you have any of the following side effects:**

- Not wanting to eat any food
- Nausea or vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Brown (not red or orange) urine (pee)
- Light-colored stools (feces/poop)
- Bruising or bleeding easily
- Skin rash or itching
- Skin or eyes turning yellow
- Severe weakness or tiredness
- Fever
- Headaches or body aches
- Dizziness

If you have bad side effects, you may be able to take a different medicine to treat TB infection. Talk to your provider, nurse or pharmacist if you have any concerns.

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### How can I remember to take my medicine?

Take your medicine at the same time every day (for example, every day before breakfast). There are different ways to keep track of your medicine:

- ✔ Use a medicine log, such as the Tuberculosis Infection Medicine Tracker, to keep track of how and when you take your medicine.
- ✔ Use a calendar application (app) on your cellphone or computer to keep track of how and when you take your medicine.
- ✔ Set a daily alarm to take your medicine.
- ✔ Always keep your medicine in the same place, such as a bedside table.
- ✔ Use a weekly pillbox.
- ✔ Ask a friend or family member to remind you to take your medicine.

### How should I store Rifampin?

Store your Rifampin at room temperature. Do not store Rifampin where it will get very cold (such as in the refrigerator), very hot (such as near your stove) or very humid (such as in your bathroom cabinet). Keep it out of children's reach. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) and search for **medicine safety**.

### Can my prescription for Rifampin be filled for more than 30 days at a time?

Your provider will most likely want to see you every month while taking Rifampin to make sure the treatment is working and discuss any side effects. Together, you and your provider can decide what will work best.

### Can I take less medicine if I feel healthy? Can I stop treatment early?

No. It is important to finish taking all of your TB infection medicine to give you the best chance of killing the TB germs in your body. If you stop treatment early, you could still get sick later. Talk to your provider first before stopping treatment or taking less of your medicine.

### When can I stop taking Rifampin?

After you complete your entire four-month treatment. If you are having trouble taking the medicine, talk to your provider so they can help you complete your treatment.

Please talk to your provider if you have any questions or concerns about your TB infection treatment. In case of emergency or if the side effects get worse, contact your provider or go to your nearest emergency room.

### Provider/Clinic Contact Information

Name of provider/clinic:

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Phone number:

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Address:

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