



Anticoagulation Management Service
Patient & Family Medication Education

Apixaban (Eliquis®)

Apixaban (Eliquis®) is an anticoagulant used to prevent blood clots from forming in your body. It is sometimes called a blood thinner. It is used to:

- lower the risk the of stroke and blood clots in atrial fibrillation;
- treat blood clots in the veins of legs (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) or lungs (pulmonary embolism or PE) and lower the risk of them happening again;
- decrease the risk of forming blood clots after hip or knee replacement surgery

Do NOT STOP TAKING this medicine without talking to the doctor who prescribed it or your pharmacist at the anticoagulation clinic. This drug is NOT for people with artificial heart valves.

HOW and WHEN to take apixaban (Eliquis®)

- **Follow the instructions given to you by your pharmacist at the anticoagulation clinic**
- Take your dose **every morning and every night at the same time**
- **It may be taken** with or without food
- This medicine is available in different pill sizes and shapes. Be sure you know your pill size, shape, and dose instructions.

Be sure your prescription is refilled on time and you do not miss a dose, because this can increase your risk of having a blood clot.

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember that day and tell your pharmacist at the anticoagulation clinic immediately. Take your usual dose the next day. Do **NOT** take two pills at once.

- If you take too much apixaban (Eliquis®), go to the nearest emergency room or call the anticoagulation clinic immediately. Taking too much anticoagulation medication may cause more bleeding.
- If you need surgery for a medical or dental procedure (especially if you are scheduled for a spinal or an epidural), talk to the anticoagulation clinic. You may need to stop this medicine for a short period of time.

Normal SIDE EFFECTS of apixaban (Eliquis®)

- This medicine may cause bleeding. Stay away from activities that may increase the risk of bleeding or injury.
- Bleeding from cuts may take longer to stop. Bruising may happen more easily. This is normal.
- Other side effects may include: skin rash or an allergic reaction (such as chest pain or tightness, swelling in your face or tongue, trouble breathing or wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint). Tell your doctor or the anticoagulation clinic about any side effects that bother you.

Danger Signs **CALL THE ANTICOAGULATION CLINIC or get emergency medical help by dialing 911 if you have:**

- Signs of an allergic reaction such as chest pain or tightness, swelling in your face or tongue, trouble breathing or wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint
- Blood coming from your mouth, nose or gums
- Blood or blood clots in your sputum (spit) after coughing
- For females, bleeding from your vagina or menstrual flow heavier than normal
- Vomit that is bloody or looks like “coffee grounds”
- Red or black (tarry) stool

- Pink or dark brown urine
- Bruising that is worse than usual or happens for no reason at all
- Unusual headache or difficulty in thinking or speaking
- Any weakness or numbness on your face, arms or legs
- Unexpected pain and/or swelling (headache or joint pain for example)
- A bad fall or injury, especially if you hit your head

IMPORTANT THINGS to know when taking apixaban (Eliquis®)

- Tell all your doctors, dentists, and other health care providers that you take apixaban (Eliquis®).
- Kidney and liver problems can change the effectiveness of this drug. Tell your doctor or the anticoagulation clinic prescribing apixaban (Eliquis®), if you were told you have these problems. Blood tests may be needed from time to time to check this.
- When filling any new prescriptions, or taking over-the-counter medicines or herbal products ask your pharmacist to make sure that it is safe to take them with apixaban (Eliquis®).
- Some medicines may affect the way apixaban (Eliquis®) works. [examples: ketoconazole (*Nizoral*®), itraconazole (*Onmel*®, *Sporanox*®), ritonavir (*Norvir*®), clarithromycin (*Biaxin*®), rifampin (*Rifater*®, *Rifamate*®, *Rimactane*®, *Rifadin*®), carbamazepine (*Carbatrol*®, *Equetro*®, *Tegretol*®), phenytoin (*Dilantin*®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)]
- Some medicines taken with apixaban (Eliquis®) may increase your risk of bleeding. [examples: aspirin, NSAIDs (*Motrin*®, *Advil*®), *Naprosyn*®), heparins, warfarin (*Coumadin*®), selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs)]

- Keep a list of all your medicines, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines and herbal products, to share with your doctors and other health care providers.

Apixaban (Eliquis®) and Pregnancy/ Breastfeeding

- There are not enough studies to inform us if apixaban (Eliquis®) is safe during pregnancy.
- It is very important to tell your doctor or the anticoagulation clinic if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- It is not known if this medicine is passed through breast milk. It is recommended to stop this medicine or stop breast-feeding. **Before stopping this medicine, talk with your doctor or the anticoagulation clinic.**

STORING apixaban (Eliquis®)

- Store at room temperature between 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C)
- Keep out of the reach of children