

# ATORVASTATIN TEVA

## PATIENT INFORMATION

You have been dispensed Atorvastatin Teva.



### Why have I been switched to Atorvastatin Teva?

Due to recent changes to government legislation,<sup>1</sup> your pharmacist may substitute a branded medicine for a safe and less expensive alternative.

### What is a generic medicine?

A generic medicine contains the same active ingredient as the original medicine ('the originator') and meets the same standards of quality and safety.

### What is an originator brand?

An originator brand is the version of medicine that was first to market.

### What are the benefits of receiving a generic medicine?

Apart from offering equivalent quality and safety of originator brands, a generic medicine such as Atorvastatin Teva can offer greater value, thereby helping the government to make cost savings on medicines.

### Can I still receive an originator brand?

You can ask your pharmacist for the originator brand however you will have to pay for any difference in costs. If, for medical reasons, your doctor requests that you receive the originator brand, you will not be required to pay any extra.<sup>2</sup>

### Will anything be different with a generic medicine?

The packaging, look and feel of a generic medicine may be different to the originator brand, but it works in the same way as the originator. A generic medicine may also have different 'non-active' ingredients.

## About Teva

Teva Pharmaceuticals employs approximately 450 people in Ireland. We provide patented and generic medications, biologics and after-care services to the Irish healthcare industry as part of Teva International who employ over 40,000 people worldwide.

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### What atorvastatin Teva is and what it is used for?

Atorvastatin Teva is used to lower lipids known as cholesterol and triglycerides in the blood when a low fat diet and lifestyle changes on their own have failed. If you are at an increased risk of heart disease, Atorvastatin Teva can also be used to reduce such risk even if your cholesterol levels are normal. You should maintain a standard cholesterol lowering diet during treatment.<sup>3</sup>

### How do I take Atorvastatin Teva?

Atorvastatin Teva tablets should be swallowed whole with a drink of water, and can be taken at any time of day, with or without food. However, try to take your tablet at the same time every day. Always take Atorvastatin Teva exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. The duration of treatment with Atorvastatin Teva is determined by your doctor.<sup>3</sup>

### What other lifestyle choices should I make?<sup>4</sup>

- 1.** Follow a balanced diet - for example 5 portions of fruit and vegetables per day and 2 portions of fish per week.
- 2.** Take regular exercise - for example 30 minutes of comfortable exercise 5 times a week.
- 3.** Drink sensibly and know your alcohol units and limits.
- 4.** Ask your pharmacist about ways, or organisations, that can help you maintain a healthy weight.
- 5.** Speak to your pharmacist about the benefits as well as support and advice on stopping smoking.
- 6.** Take your Atorvastatin Teva at the same time every day.
- 7.** Atorvastatin Teva tablets should be swallowed whole with water.

## References

1. Department of Health, (Health Pricing and supply of medical goods) Bill 2012 ;
2. Department of Health - Generic Substitution and Reference Pricing - Frequently Asked Questions
3. Atorvastatin Teva Patient Information leaflet, Sept 2012
4. BNF 58 September 2009

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