

MEDICATION GUIDE
Gabapentin (GA ba PEN tin)
Capsules

What is the most important information I should know about gabapentin capsules?

Do not stop taking gabapentin capsules without first talking to your healthcare provider.

Stopping gabapentin capsules suddenly can cause serious problems.

Gabapentin capsules can cause serious side effects including:

- 1. Suicidal Thoughts.** Like other antiepileptic drugs, gabapentin capsules may cause suicidal thoughts or actions in a very small number of people, about 1 in 500. This can happen while you take gabapentin capsules as well as after stopping gabapentin capsules.

Call a healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms, especially if they are new, worse, or worry you:

- thoughts about suicide or dying
- attempts to commit suicide
- new or worse depression
- new or worse anxiety
- feeling agitated or restless
- panic attacks
- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- new or worse irritability
- acting aggressive, being angry, or violent
- acting on dangerous impulses
- an extreme increase in activity and talking (mania)
- other unusual changes in behavior or mood

How can I watch for early symptoms of suicidal thoughts and actions?

- Pay attention to any changes, especially sudden changes, in mood, behaviors, thoughts, or feelings.
- Keep all follow-up visits with your healthcare provider as scheduled.

Call your healthcare provider between visits as needed, especially if you are worried about symptoms.

Do not stop taking gabapentin capsules without first talking to a healthcare provider.

- Stopping gabapentin capsules suddenly can cause serious problems. Stopping a seizure medicine suddenly in a person who has epilepsy can cause seizures that will not stop (status epilepticus).
 - Suicidal thoughts or actions can be caused by things other than medicines. If you have suicidal thoughts or actions, your healthcare provider may check for other causes.
- 2. Changes in behavior and thinking.** Using gabapentin capsules in children 3 to 12 years of age can cause emotional changes, aggressive behavior, problems with concentration, changes in school performance, restlessness, and hyperactivity.
 - 3. Gabapentin capsules may cause serious or life-threatening allergic reactions** that may affect your skin or other parts of your body such as your liver or blood cells. This may cause you to be hospitalized or to stop gabapentin capsules. You may or may not have a rash with an allergic reaction caused by gabapentin capsules. Call a healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - skin rash
 - hives
 - difficulty breathing
 - fever

- swollen glands that do not go away
- swelling of your face, lips, throat, or tongue
- yellowing of your skin or of the whites of the eyes
- unusual bruising or bleeding
- severe fatigue or weakness
- unexpected muscle pain
- frequent infections

These symptoms may be the first signs of a serious reaction. A healthcare provider should examine you to decide if you should continue taking gabapentin capsules.

4. Serious breathing problems. Serious breathing problems can happen when gabapentin capsules are taken with other medicines (such as opioid pain medicines) that can cause severe sleepiness or decreased awareness, or when it is taken by someone who already has breathing problems. Call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:

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| • feel short of breath | • feel very tired | • dizziness |
| • breathing slower than normal | • confusion | • headache |

Be sure that your caregiver or family members know which symptoms may be serious so they can call your healthcare provider or get medical help if you are unable to seek treatment on your own.

Your healthcare provider may lower your dose or stop your treatment with gabapentin capsules if you have serious breathing problems.

What are gabapentin capsules?

Gabapentin capsules are a prescription medicine used to treat:

- pain from damaged nerves (postherpetic pain) that follows healing of shingles (a painful rash that comes after a herpes zoster infection) in adults.
- partial seizures when taken together with other medicines in adults and children 3 years of age and older with seizures.

It is not known if gabapentin capsules are safe and effective to treat:

- children with pain from damaged nerves from a painful rash caused by the chicken pox virus.
- partial seizures in children under 3 years of age.

Do not take gabapentin capsules if you?

- are allergic to gabapentin or any of the other ingredients in gabapentin capsules. See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in gabapentin capsules.

Before taking gabapentin capsules, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions including if you:

- have or have had kidney problems or are on hemodialysis.
- have or have had depression, mood problems, or suicidal thoughts or behavior.
- have a history of drug abuse.
- have diabetes.
- have breathing problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if gabapentin capsules can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant while taking gabapentin capsules. You and your healthcare provider will decide if you should take gabapentin capsules while you are pregnant.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. Gabapentin capsules can pass into breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should decide how you will feed your baby while you take gabapentin capsules.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- any opioid pain medicine such as morphine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, or buprenorphine.
- any medicines for anxiety (such as lorazepam) or insomnia (such as zolpidem), or any medicines that make you sleepy. You may have a higher chance for dizziness, sleepiness, or breathing problems if these medicines are taken with gabapentin capsules.

Taking gabapentin capsules with certain other medicines can cause side effects or affect how well they work.

Do not start or stop other medicines without talking to your healthcare provider.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take gabapentin capsules?

- Take gabapentin capsules exactly as prescribed. Your healthcare provider will tell you how much gabapentin capsules to take.
- **Do not** change your dose of gabapentin capsules without talking to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not** stop taking gabapentin capsule without talking to your healthcare provider first. If you stop taking gabapentin capsule suddenly, you may develop side effects.
- Gabapentin capsules can be taken with or without food.
- Swallow gabapentin capsules whole with water.
- If you take an antacid containing aluminum and magnesium, such as Maalox, Mylanta, Gelusil, Gaviscon, or Di-Gel, you should wait at least 2 hours before taking your next dose of gabapentin capsules.
- In case of overdose, get medical help or contact a live Poison Center expert right away at 1-800-222-1222. Advice is also available online at poisonhelp.org.

What should I avoid while taking gabapentin capsules?

- **Do not** drink alcohol or take other medicines that make you sleepy or dizzy while taking gabapentin capsules without first talking with your healthcare provider. Taking gabapentin capsules with alcohol or drugs that cause sleepiness or dizziness may make your sleepiness or dizziness worse.
- **Do not** drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities until you know how gabapentin capsules affects you. Gabapentin capsules can slow your thinking and motor skills.

What are the possible side effects of gabapentin capsules?

Gabapentin capsules may cause serious side effects including:

- See “**What is the most important information I should know about gabapentin capsules?**”
- problems driving while using gabapentin capsules. See “**What should avoid while taking gabapentin capsules?**”
- sleepiness and dizziness, which could increase your chance of having an accidental injury, including falls

The most common side effects of gabapentin capsules include:

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| • lack of coordination | • feeling drowsy |
| • viral infection | • nausea and vomiting |
| • difficulty with speaking | • jerky movements |
| • tremor | • difficulty with coordination |
| • swelling, usually of legs and feet | • double vision |
| • feeling tired | • unusual eye movement |
| • fever | |

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of gabapentin capsules. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store gabapentin capsules?

- Store gabapentin capsules at 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C) [See USP Controlled Room Temperature].

Keep gabapentin capsules and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the safe and effective use of gabapentin capsules.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use gabapentin capsules for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give gabapentin capsules to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about gabapentin capsules that was written for health professionals.

What are the ingredients in gabapentin capsules?

Active ingredient: Gabapentin, USP

Inactive ingredients in the capsules: corn starch and magnesium stearate

The 100 mg capsule shell contains: gelatin and titanium dioxide

The 300 mg capsule shell contains: gelatin, titanium dioxide and yellow iron oxide.

The 400 mg capsule shell contains: gelatin, red iron oxide, titanium dioxide and yellow iron oxide.

The imprinting ink contains: FD&C Blue #1 Aluminum Lake, propylene glycol, shellac, and titanium dioxide.

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Manufactured for:

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M.L. No.: 12/SRD/TS/2017/F/G

Manufactured by:

Graviti Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.

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Revised: 06/2025

MGR86910-01