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ANTIDIABETICS - ORAL

USES: This medication is used in the treatment of non-insulin dependent diabetes. It must be used in conjunction with proper diet and exercise to help decrease blood sugar levels.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: May be taken with food or milk if stomach upset occurs.

Take this medication at the same time(s) each day in order to maintain a constant blood level. Monitor blood glucose levels daily while taking this medication.

You may need to be switched to insulin therapy if you develop a severe infection, diabetic coma or undergo major surgery.

SIDE EFFECTS: Headache, stomach upset, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhea or vomiting may occur as your body adjusts to the medication.

Inform your doctor if you develop itchy skin, dark urine, fever, sore throat, swelling of the hands or feet or unusual bleeding or bruising while taking this medication.

This medication can cause low blood sugar (hypoglycemia). The symptoms include chills, cold sweat, shaking, rapid heart rate, weakness, headache, fainting. If you experience these symptoms, eat a quick source of sugar such as table sugar, orange juice, honey, non-diet soda. Tell your doctor about the reaction. To help prevent hypoglycemia, eat meals on a regular schedule and do not skip meals.

Symptoms of high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) include confusion, drowsiness, flushing, rapid breathing, or fruity breath odor. If these symptoms occur, contact your doctor.

This medication can increase sensitivity to sunlight.

PRECAUTIONS: Tell your doctor your complete medical history, especially if you have high blood pressure or liver or kidney disease. Your medicine may need to be changed.

Avoid alcohol while taking this medication. It can cause facial flushing, nausea, vomiting, dizziness or stomach pain.

This medication may make you more prone to sunburn. Wear protective clothing and a sunscreen.

Be sure to tell your doctor if you are pregnant. Insulin therapy may be necessary during pregnancy. Some oral antidiabetic medication appears in breast milk. Consult with your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Inform your doctor about all the medicines you use (both prescription and nonprescription) especially if you are using "blood thinners" (Coumadin-like drugs), MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, phenelzine, selegiline, tranylcypramine), beta blockers (e.g., metoprolol, propranolol, timolol) including certain glaucoma eye medicines, aspirin-like drugs or probenecid because your dose may need to be adjusted.

NOTES: Diabetics should wear or carry medical identification.

It is recommended to attend a diabetes education program to understand diabetes and all aspects of its treatment including diet, exercise, personal hygiene, medications and getting regular eye exams.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take as soon as remembered; do not take if it is almost time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the dose to catch up.

STORAGE: Store at room temperature away from moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.

Your condition can cause complications in a medical emergency. For information on enrollment call Medic Alert(TM) at 1-800-854-1166. In Canada call 1-800-668-1507.