



- **Pregnancy Registry:** If you become pregnant while taking gabapentin capsules, talk to your healthcare provider about registering with the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) Pregnancy Registry. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the safety of antiepileptic drugs during pregnancy. You can enroll in this registry by calling 1-888-233-2334 or visiting <http://www.aedpregnancyregistry.org>.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Gabapentin can pass into breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should decide how you will feed your baby while you take gabapentin.

**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 tablets without talking to your healthcare provider first. If you stop taking gabapentin tablets 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, Nexicon, or Di-Gel, you should wait at least 2 hours before taking your next dose of gabapentin.
- In case of overdose, get medical help or contact a live Poison Center 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 I 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:**

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

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 between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).
- 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 is written for health professionals.

**What are the ingredients in gabapentin capsules?**

**Active ingredient:** gabapentin.

**Inactive ingredients in the capsules:** Pregelatinized maize starch, talc and Ingredients of Imprinting Ink (Black SW-9049) are Black Iron Oxide NF (E 172), Butyl Alcohol NF, Dehydrated Alcohol USP, Isopropyl Alcohol USP, Potassium Hydroxide NF, Propylene Glycol USP, Shellac NF, and Strong Ammonia Solution NF.

The 100-mg capsule shell also contains: gelatin and titanium dioxide.

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

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

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Distributed by:

**Strides Pharma Inc.**  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Revised: 06/2025

#### Data

##### Human Data

An observational study based on routinely collected data from administrative and medical registries in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, compared the prevalence of major congenital malformations in approximately 1,500 pregnancies exposed to gabapentin monotherapy in the first trimester to pregnancies exposed to antiepileptics ( $n=2,995,816$ ) and pregnancies exposed to lamotrigine monotherapy in the first trimester ( $n=1,580$ ). The overall prevalence ratios in a pooled analysis were 1.00 (95% CI, 0.86-1.24) compared to pregnancies unexposed to antiepileptics and 1.29 (95% CI, 1.00-1.67) compared to pregnancies exposed to lamotrigine monotherapy in the first trimester.

Data from another observational study in the US based on Medicaid data, which compared the risk for major congenital malformations in more than 4,600 pregnancies exposed to gabapentin during the first trimester to unexposed pregnancies ( $n=1,753,865$ ), estimated an adjusted relative risk of 1.07 (95% CI, 0.94-1.21).

Data from a cohort study of over 200,000 Medicaid-eligible pregnancies with prenatal opioid exposure in the last 40 days of pregnancy found that the risk of neonatal drug withdrawal was greater in pregnancies with continued exposure to gabapentin and opioids compared to pregnancies with exposure to opioids alone. The data from these observational studies should be interpreted with caution due to the potential for exposure misclassification, outcome misclassification, and residual confounding, including by underlying disease.

##### Animal Data

When pregnant mice received oral doses of gabapentin (500, 1000, or 3000 mg/kg/day) during the period of organogenesis, embryofetal toxicity (increased incidence of resorbed fetuses) was observed at the two highest doses. The no-effect dose for embryofetal developmental toxicity in mice (500 mg/kg/day) is less than the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 3600 mg on a body surface area (mg/m<sup>2</sup>) basis.

In studies in which rats received oral doses of gabapentin (500 to 2000 mg/kg/day) during pregnancy, adverse effect on offspring development (increased incidence of hydronephrotic and/or hydromyelia) were observed at all doses. The lowest dose tested is similar to the MRHD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis.

In a published study, gabapentin (400 mg/kg/day) was administered to reproductive females to observe mice during the first postnatal week, a period of synaptogenesis in rodents (corresponding to the last trimester of pregnancy in humans). Gabapentin caused a marked decrease in total synapse formation in brains of intact mice and abnormal neuronal synapse formation in a mouse model of synapticaptic repair. Gabapentin also interacted with calcium channels, as the  $\alpha_2\delta$  subunit of voltage-activated calcium channels, a receptor involved in neuronal synaptogenesis. The clinical significance of these findings is unknown.

##### 8.2 Lactation

###### Risk Summary

Gabapentin is secreted in human milk following oral administration. The effects on the breastfed infant and on milk production are unknown. The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical history for gabapentin and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed infant from gabapentin or from the underlying maternal condition.

###### 8.4 Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness of gabapentin in the management of postherpetic neuralgia in pediatric patients have not been established. Safety and effectiveness as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial seizures in pediatric patients below the age of 3 years has not been established (see Clinical Studies (14.2)).

###### 8.5 Geriatric Use

The total number of patients treated with gabapentin in controlled clinical trials in patients with postherpetic neuralgia was 336, of which 102 (30%) were 65 to 74 years of age, and 168 (50%) were 75 years of age and older. There was a larger treatment effect in patients 75 years of age and older compared to younger patients who received the same dosage. Since gabapentin has been shown to have activity for neural excitation, the larger treatment effect observed in patients  $\geq 75$  years may be a consequence of increased gabapentin exposure for a given dose that results from age-related decrease in renal function. However, other factors cannot be excluded. The types and incidence of adverse reactions were similar across age groups except for peripheral edema and edema, which tended to increase in incidence with age. Clinical studies of gabapentin in epilepsy did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they responded differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

This drug is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney, and the risk of toxic reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection, and dose should be adjusted based on creatinine clearance values in these patients (see Dosage and Administration (2.4), Adverse Reactions (6), and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

###### 8.6 Renal Impairment

Dose adjustment in adult patients with compromised renal function is necessary (see Dosage and Administration (2.3) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)). Pediatric patients with renal insufficiency have not been studied.

Dose adjustment in patients undergoing hemodialysis is necessary (see Dosage and Administration (2.3) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

#### 9 DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

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##### 9.3 Dependence

Physical dependence is a state that develops as a result of physiological adaptation in response to repeated drug use, manifested by withdrawal signs and symptoms after abrupt discontinuation or a significant dose reduction of a drug. After discontinuation of short-term and long-term treatment with gabapentin, withdrawal symptoms (headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and fatigue) have been reported but a history of polysubstance abuse may occur shortly after discontinuation, usually within 48 hours. In the postmarketing setting, reported adverse reactions have included, but not been limited to, seizures, depression, suicidal ideation and behavior, agitation, confusion, disorientation, psychotic symptoms, anxiety, insomnia, nausea, pain, sweating, tremor, headache, dizziness, and malaise. The dependence potential of gabapentin has not been evaluated in human studies.

#### 10 OVERDOSEAGE

Signs of acute toxicity in animals included ataxia, labored breathing, pupal, seclusion, hyporexia, or excitation.

Animal oral overdoses of gabapentin have been reported. Symptoms have included double vision, tremor, dilated pupils, disorientation, altered mental status, dizziness, lethargy, and diarrhea. Fatal respiratory depression has been reported with gabapentin overdose, alone and in combination with other CNS depressants.

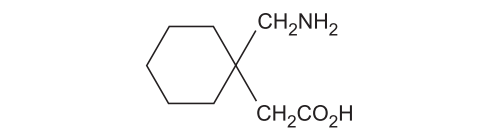
Gabapentin can be removed by hemodialysis.

If overdose occurs, call your poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.

#### 11 DESCRIPTION

The active ingredient in gabapentin capsules USP is gabapentin, which has the chemical name 1-(aminomethyl)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid.

The molecular formula of gabapentin is C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> and the molecular weight is 171.24. The structural formula of gabapentin is:



Gabapentin is a white to off-white crystalline solid with a pKa1 of 3.7 and a pKa2 of 10.2. It is freely soluble in water and both basic and acidic aqueous solutions. The log of the partition coefficient in octanol/DMS (logP<sub>oct/DMS</sub>) is 1.41 ± 0.15.

Each Gabapentin capsule contains 100 mg, 300 mg, or 400 mg of gabapentin and the following inactive ingredients: Pregelatinized Maize starch, talc, gelatin, titanium dioxide, yellow iron oxide (300 mg and 400 mg only), and red iron oxide (300 mg and 400 mg only). Black iron oxide (300 mg and 400 mg only), Ingredients of Imprinting Ink (Black SW-9049) are Black Iron Oxide NF (E 172), Butyl Alcohol NF, Dehydrated Alcohol USP, Isopropyl Alcohol USP, Potassium Hydroxide NF, Propylene Glycol USP, Shellac NF, and Strong Ammonia Solution NF.

#### 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

**12.1 Mechanism of Action**  
The precise mechanisms by which gabapentin produces its analgesic and anticonvulsant actions are unknown. Gabapentin is structurally related to the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) but has no effect on GABA binding, uptake, or degradation. In vitro studies have shown that gabapentin binds with high-affinity to the  $\alpha_2\delta$  subunit of voltage-activated calcium channels. However, the relationship of this binding to the therapeutic effects of gabapentin is unknown.

##### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

All pharmacological actions following gabapentin administration are due to the activity of the parent compound; gabapentin is not appreciably metabolized in humans.

**Oral Bioavailability**  
Gabapentin bioavailability is not dose proportional, i.e., as dose is increased, bioavailability decreases. Bioavailability of gabapentin is approximately 60%, 47%, 34%, 33%, and 27% following 900, 1200, 2400, 3600, and 4800 mg/day given in 3 divided doses, respectively. Food has only a slight effect on the rate and extent of absorption of gabapentin (14% increase in AUC at C<sub>max</sub>).

##### Distribution

Less than 3% of gabapentin circulates bound to plasma proteins. The apparent volume of distribution of gabapentin after 150 mg intravenous administration is approximately 50 L (mean  $\pm$  SD). In patients with epilepsy, steady-state predose (C<sub>trough</sub>) concentrations of gabapentin in cerebrospinal fluid were approximately 20% of the corresponding plasma concentrations.

**Elimination**  
Gabapentin is eliminated from the systemic circulation by renal secretion as unchanged drug. Gabapentin is not appreciably metabolized in humans.

Gabapentin elimination half-life is 5 to 7 hours and is unrelated by dose or following multiple dosing. Gabapentin elimination rate constant, plasma clearance, and renal clearance are directly proportional to renal plasma clearance. In elderly patients, and in patients with impaired renal function, gabapentin plasma clearance is reduced. Gabapentin can be removed from plasma by hemodialysis.

##### Specific Populations

###### Age

The effect of age was studied in subjects 20-40 years of age. Apparent oral clearance (CL<sub>R</sub>) of gabapentin decreased as age increased, from about 225 mL/min in those under 30 years of age to about 125 mL/min in those over 70 years of age. Renal clearance (CL<sub>R</sub>) and CL<sub>R</sub> adjusted for body surface area also declined with age; however, the decline in the renal clearance of gabapentin with age can largely be explained by the decline in renal plasma flow (see Dosage and Administration (2.4) and Use in Specific Populations (8.5)).

###### Gender

Although no formal study has been conducted to compare the pharmacokinetics of gabapentin in men and women, it appears that the pharmacokinetic parameters for males and females are similar and there are no significant gender differences.

###### Race

Pharmacokinetic differences due to race have not been studied. Because gabapentin is primarily renally excreted and there are no important racial differences in creatinine clearance, pharmacokinetic differences due to race are not expected.

###### Pediatric

Gabapentin pharmacokinetics were determined in 48 pediatric subjects between the ages of 1 month and 12 years following a dose of approximately 10 mg/kg. Peak plasma concentrations were similar across the entire age group and occurred 2 to 3 hours postdose. In general, pediatric subjects between 1 month and <5 years of age achieved approximately 50% lower exposure (AUC) than that observed in 5 years of age and older. Accordingly, oral clearance normalized per body weight was higher in younger children. Apparent oral clearance of gabapentin was directly proportional to creatinine clearance. Gabapentin elimination half-life averaged 4.7 hours and was similar across the age group studied.

A population pharmacokinetic analysis was performed in 253 pediatric subjects between 1 month and 10 years of age. Patients received 10 to 65 mg/kg/day given three times a day. Apparent oral clearance (CL<sub>R</sub>) was directly proportional to creatinine clearance and this relationship was similar following a single dose and at steady-state. The clearance was highly variable in infants <1 year of age. The normalized CL<sub>R</sub> values observed in pediatric patients 5 years of age and older were consistent with values observed in adults after a single dose. The oral volume of distribution normalized to body weight was similar across the age range.

These pharmacokinetic data indicate that the effective daily dose in pediatric patients with epilepsy ages 3 and 4 years should be 40 mg/kg/day to achieve average plasma concentrations similar to those achieved in patients 5 years of age and older receiving gabapentin at 30 mg/kg/day (see Dosage and Administration (2.3)).

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