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Department of Diabetes

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Alfacalcidol

Patient Information Leaflet

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What is Alfacalcidol?

A very detailed description of this drug can be found in the drug leaflet that comes with the medication.

You should read that leaflet before taking the medicine. If there is anything you don't understand – discuss it with your doctor.

You have been started on a tablet called ALFACALCIDOL - a form of Vitamin D.

Alfacalcidol raises calcium in the blood. It is used in kidney impairment because blood calcium falls which may lead to bone damage.

How much should I take?

The dose of Alfacalcidol varies depending on your blood calcium and phosphate level and on a hormone called PTH. You should have been given clear information about your dose – if you weren't, then please ASK.

Alfacalcidol should only be used when the blood tests mentioned above are being monitored. It should not be used if blood calcium is high or in widespread cancer.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects of Alfacalcidol are rare. In over dosage, it may cause

- loss of appetite, tiredness
- nausea, vomiting
- diarrhoea, weight loss
- headache, thirst
- dizziness or sweating

Other side effects are very rare.

If you think you may have a side effect from Alfacalcidol treatment, **stop the tablets and ask your doctor or nurse for advice.**