

## Patient information factsheet

# Pabrinex

### Why have I been given Pabrinex®?

Pabrinex® is an injection that contains vitamins B and C (thiamine, riboflavin, pyridoxine, nicotinamide and ascorbic acid). It is used to treat symptoms that can be caused by a lack of these vitamins.

People who drink dependently, have had an infection, have had surgery, have regular haemodialysis (treatment which involves diverting blood into an external machine for filtering before it's returned to the body) or some mental health conditions sometimes do not have enough of these vitamins, and need to have them replaced to prevent other problems from occurring. Alcohol dependent patients may be at risk of developing Wernicke's encephalopathy (a serious problem affecting memory) if they are not treated with Pabrinex® early in their attendance at hospital, so it may be started in the emergency department.

### How will I be given Pabrinex®?

You will be given Pabrinex® in a drip, through a needle into a vein (known as an 'infusion'). It is a yellow-coloured liquid.

### How long will I be on Pabrinex®?

This depends on why it has been prescribed and how effective it is. Usually people have three days of treatment and are then started on vitamin tablets (for example multivitamins, thiamine and vitamin compound strong B). Sometimes the team looking after you will decide that you will benefit from more than five days of treatment.

### Are there any side effects with Pabrinex®?

As with all medicines, Pabrinex® can cause side effects, though the likelihood of this happening is rare. If during or after your infusion you are sneezing more or feel that your chest is "tight" or wheezy tell your doctor or nurse immediately. It may mean you are sensitive to the medicine and should not be given any more doses.

Allergic reactions are rare, but a severe allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur. Symptoms of this include swelling of the throat and face, a rash, severe itching, difficulty breathing and low blood pressure. In the unlikely event of this happening you will be treated for your reaction and your healthcare team will observe you for any further problems. Some patients experience a mild feeling of pins and needles after receiving Pabrinex®.

As with any other medicine being given through a vein, you may get some swelling at the site it is given. If you notice any changes please tell your doctor or nurse.

### Can I take my usual medicines with Pabrinex®?

It is important you tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking other medication, especially:

- Levodopa (used to treat Parkinson's disease)

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## Can I drive or use machinery if I have been given Pabrinex®?

It is unlikely that Pabrinex® has any effect on your ability to drive, but you should check with your doctor or nurse if you have been given any other medicines that may affect this.

## Further information

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss this medicine in more detail, please ask to speak to the ward pharmacist or the alcohol care team who can be contacted on telephone number **023 8120 5721**.

**If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audiotape, please telephone 023 8120 4688 for help.**