

# Xarelto, Made Simple

## The six things every Xarelto patient should know

Xarelto®—also called rivaroxaban—is a blood thinner that helps prevent dangerous blood clots. It can protect you from a stroke, treat a clot in the leg or lung, or reduce the chance that another clot will form.

It is an effective medicine, but it must be taken correctly.

### 1. Do not stop Xarelto on your own

Stopping Xarelto suddenly can increase your risk of a blood clot or stroke. Even when you feel well, continue taking it exactly as prescribed unless the clinician managing your blood thinner gives you a stop-and-restart plan.

### 2. Check whether your dose must be taken with food

The strength printed on your prescription bottle matters.

- **2.5 mg and 10 mg:** May generally be taken with or without food.
- **15 mg and 20 mg:** Must be taken with food. Do not take these strengths on an empty stomach.

Food helps your body absorb the 15 mg and 20 mg tablets properly. If you are unsure which strength you take, check your bottle or call Fairview Pharmacy.

### 3. Your missed-dose instructions depend on your schedule

Xarelto is prescribed in several different ways. The correct instruction for a missed dose is not the same for every patient.

Do not follow advice intended for another person, even if that person also takes Xarelto. Use the instructions provided with your prescription or call Fairview Pharmacy at 601-544-4871.

### 4. Check before taking pain medicines or supplements

Ibuprofen, naproxen, aspirin, and certain prescription medicines can increase your risk of bleeding. Other medicines and supplements—including St. John's wort—can change how well Xarelto works.

Before starting any new prescription, over-the-counter medicine, vitamin, or herbal supplement, tell the pharmacist that you take Xarelto.

## 5. Know the signs of serious bleeding

Minor bruising or slightly longer bleeding from a small cut can occur. Get medical help promptly for:

- Bleeding that is heavy or will not stop
- Red, pink, or brown urine
- Red or black, tar-like stools
- Vomiting or coughing up blood
- A severe or unusual headache
- Dizziness, fainting, unusual weakness, or confusion
- Sudden vision changes, slurred speech, or weakness on one side

Call 911 for severe bleeding, stroke-like symptoms, loss of consciousness, or another medical emergency.

## 6. Tell people before a procedure or after an injury

Tell every doctor, dentist, surgeon, emergency professional, and pharmacist that you take Xarelto.

This is especially important before surgery, dental treatment, spinal injections, epidurals, or spinal taps. Do not stop the medicine without a coordinated plan.

After a significant fall or head injury, seek prompt medical advice—even when you initially feel well—because internal bleeding may not be immediately obvious.

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This guide provides general education and does not replace individualized instructions from your prescriber or pharmacist.