

# Olbetam

**acipimox**

250 mg capsule

---

## What is in this leaflet

---

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using Olbetam.

This leaflet answers some common questions about Olbetam. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using Olbetam against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

---

## What Olbetam is used for

---

This medicine contains acipimox, which is used to treat lipid disorders by reducing high blood levels of certain types of fats called triglycerides. Olbetam should only be used in patients where diet alone or other non-drug measures (weight loss or exercise) failed to correct the levels of these fats.

Your doctor may have prescribed Olbetam for another reason.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Olbetam has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

---

## Before you use Olbetam

---

### ***When you must not use it***

Do not use Olbetam if:

- If you are allergic to acipimox or any of the other ingredients of this medicine
- If you have an ulcer affecting the stomach or gut

- If you have a severe kidney problem. Your doctor will tell you if this is the case.

If you are not sure whether you should start using Olbetam, talk to your doctor.

### ***Before you start to use it***

You should have made changes to your diet, alcohol intake and physical exercise before being given this medicine.

Tell your doctor if:

- You are taking other medicines to reduce blood fat levels
- You have unexplained muscle pain, muscle tenderness or muscle weakness while you are taking this medicine.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start using Olbetam.

This medicine is not effective for all lipid disorders. This medicine is not given to prevent heart disease.

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

### ***Taking other medicines***

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. You should also tell any health professional who is prescribing a new medication for you that you are taking Olbetam.

Some medicines may interfere with Olbetam. These include:

- Any other lipid lowering agents. Although no interaction has been shown with other lipid lowering agents, caution should be taken if Olbetam is used in combination with statins (e.g. simvastatin).

These medicines may be affected by Olbetam, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines.

The absorption of Olbetam is not affected by taking colestyramine (another lipid lowering agent), digoxin or warfarin at the same time.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Olbetam.

---

## **How to use Olbetam**

---

### ***How much to take***

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

The usual dosage is one 250 mg capsule 2 or 3 times a day.

If you have mild kidney problems you may need to take a lower dose and to take your tablets less often. The doctor will advise you how much to take and how often (usually one capsule 1 or 2 times a day).

### ***When to take it***

Olbetam Capsule should be taken with or after main meals. The capsules should be swallowed with a glass of water.

### ***How long to take it***

Do not stop taking your medicine or alter the dose you are currently taking without seeing your doctor first.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor will assess how well this medicine is working for you based on your response to it over time.

### ***If you forget to take it***

If you forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next dose, just take your usual dose at the usual time. **Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.**

---

## **While you are using Olbetam**

---

### ***Things you must do***

Stop using this product immediately and contact a doctor immediately if you become pregnant while you are taking this medicine.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Olbetam.

This medicine is for long term use, blood tests should be performed before taking this medicine, and at regular intervals during treatment. Your kidney and liver functions should be monitored while you are taking this medicine.

## ***Things you must not do***

This medicine is only intended for you. Do not give Olbetam to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

## ***Things to be careful of***

Olbetam is unlikely to affect the ability to drive and operate machines, however, please consult your doctor if you wish to drive whilst taking Olbetam.

---

## **In case of overdose**

---

### ***If you take too much (overdose)***

Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766), or go to accident and emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Olbetam.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

---

## **Side Effects**

---

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using Olbetam.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the adverse effects. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

### **Please contact your doctor immediately if any of the following side effects occur:**

- Serious allergic reaction which causes difficulty in breathing (due to narrowing of the airways), swelling of the tongue, throat, face and / or neck. **These effects are uncommon.**
- Dilation of blood vessels in the skin causing a feeling of heat, flushing or itching, rash or redness. These reactions usually disappear quickly during the first day of treatment.

### **Other side effects may include:**

- Headache
- Flushing
- Indigestion

- Stomach ache
- Weakness
- Hives
- Difficulty in breathing or wheezing
- Nausea (feeling sick)
- Rash, itching, redness
- Inflammation of muscle tissue causing pain in the muscles and joints
- Feeling hot, malaise (generally not feeling well)
- Diarrhoea

Other adverse effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Tell your doctor if you notice any other effects.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible adverse effects. You may not experience any of them.

---

## After using Olbetam

---

### ***Storage***

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date printed on the carton or blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store below 30°C in the original carton to protect from moisture.

### ***Disposal***

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your doctor or pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

---

## Product description

---

### ***What it looks like***

This medicine is a gelatin self-locking capsule, with a red cap and a red brown body.

The capsules are available in blister packs in cartons of 30 capsules.

### ***Ingredients***

#### Active ingredient:

- Each capsule contains 250 mg of acipimox.

Inactive ingredients:

- Colloidal hydra silica
- Modified corn starch
- Silicon dioxide
- Magnesium stearate
- Sodium lauryl sulfate
- Titanium dioxide
- Iron oxide red
- Iron oxide yellow.

---

## **Sponsor Details**

---

Olbetam is supplied in New Zealand by:

Pfizer New Limited Limited  
Po Box 3998  
Auckland  
NEW ZEALAND

Toll Free Number: 0800 736 363

---

## **Date of Preparation**

---

This leaflet was prepared in August 2020.