



Appendix 4

Co-trimoxazole

This is sometimes used as part of a combination regimen for *M. Abscessus* treatment.

How do I take?

- Take co-trimoxazole with food
- Co-trimoxazole is a combination of two antibiotics - sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim, hence should be avoided if you have experienced adverse reactions to either of these. It should also be avoided if you are known to have acute porphyria or Glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency

Will there be any interactions with any of my other medicines?

Your NTM team will check for any interactions. Please ensure you make your NTM team aware of all prescribed medications you take and any over the counter medications.

- Medicines that co-trimoxazole interacts with include (but not limited to):
 - Ciclosporin
 - Warfarin
 - Phenytoin
 - Digoxin
 - Methotrexate
 - Some diuretics (water tablets)
 - Pyrimethamine

Is there anything I need to look out for?

- Co-trimoxazole may cause side effects. You should make your NTM team aware if you experience any of the following side effects:
 - Skin reactions such as rash with blisters, peeling skin with or without fever
 - Sore throat, fever, chills, mouth ulcers or cold sores
 - Unusual bruising or bleeding
 - Unusual tiredness or weakness
 - Unexpected worsening of cough and shortness of breath
 - Stomach pains with blood in your stools
 - Palpitations (feeling of having a fast heartbeat). This may suggest a rise in potassium



What other side effects might I experience?

- Other side effects include (but not limited to):
 - Headaches
 - Muscle cramps, weakness
 - Nausea
 - Co-trimoxazole may make your skin more sensitive to sunlight, causing a rash or severe sunburn. You should avoid strong sunlight and wear sunscreen
 - Ringing in your ears
- Please see patient information insert provided with medication for full list of side effects

How will I be monitored?

- Your NTM team will check your full blood count, liver and kidney function before you start treatment and regularly throughout your treatment
- Monthly full blood count including folate levels should be monitored while on long courses of co-trimoxazole. You may be prescribed folic acid supplements to prevent or treat anaemia