

DVMetrics Client Information Sheets for Veterinary Medications



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TRIMETHOPRIM + SULFADIAZINE/SULFAMETHOXAZOLE - *Full Version*

CPN: 63001039

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Trimethoprim Sulfa is a broad-spectrum antibiotic used in dogs and cats to treat many infections, including protozoal and skin infections. **Trimethoprim Sulfa** is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian as an oral paste or suspension, an injectable solution, a powder or a tablet.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- **Trimethoprim Sulfa** is a broad-spectrum antibiotic containing a combination of two antibiotics: trimethoprim and sulfadiazine or sulfamethoxazole
- **Trimethoprim Sulfa** is given by mouth
- Injectable forms may be given in the veterinary clinic

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Used to treat many infections, including protozoal and skin infections
- Is less likely to cause diarrhea than some antibiotics

ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- This medication is used off-label in cats and dogs and should be administered only when and as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian
- **Use of this medication in any other species should be in consultation with a veterinarian**
- Use of this prescribed medication in animals with any of the following conditions should be limited to those who are under the supervision of a veterinarian:
 - Liver disease, anemia or other circulating blood cell abnormalities
 - Kidney disease, kidney stones, folate deficiency or dehydration
 - Doberman, Samoyed and miniature Schnauzers
- Safety has not been established in:
 - Pregnant or nursing animals

- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to **Trimethoprim Sulfa** or other sulfonamides, thiazides or sulfonamide agents should not be given this medication

DIRECTIONS:

The injectable formulation of this medication is often given in the safety of a veterinary hospital with adequate patient monitoring and is rarely prescribed for use at home.

For oral formulations, read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

For liquids, shake well before accurately measuring the dose.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Finish the entire course of treatment. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food. If your pet experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat. Ensure your pet has fresh, clean drinking water at all times to avoid dehydration while on this medication.

Cats don't like the taste of **Trimethoprim Sulfa** and will drool profusely. Providing the drug as a capsule or some other dosage form may facilitate easier administration. After administration, watch the pet closely to ensure the entire dose was consumed.

This medication should take effect within 1 to 2 days. You should see improvements in your pet's clinical signs.

If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give this medication at the same time(s) daily.

WHAT IF DOSE IS MISSED?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

- When will your pet need to be rechecked

- What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug
- What are the safety concerns when using this product in different species
- Risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

- If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products
- If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever
- If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever
- If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever
- All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medicines can be given together.
- If your pet is pregnant or nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Store **Trimethoprim Sulfa** in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Store liquids in the refrigerator. Discard any unused liquid after 14 days. Shake liquids well before using.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets. Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

Pet owners allergic to **Trimethoprim Sulfa** and/or other antibiotics should use caution when handling this drug.

Trimethoprim Sulfa may interfere with thyroid function testing. If your pet needs to have his thyroid levels checked, you may need to discontinue this medication prior to the test.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

Side effects are rare, but if they occur, they can be serious. The following reactions occur not because of the amount of drug given, but the individual pet's sensitivity to **Trimethoprim Sulfa**:

- Vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, fever, facial swelling, hives (urticaria)
- Joint inflammation (arthritis, fever, muscle soreness), especially in Dobermans
- Skin rashes and itchiness
- Liver failure or hepatitis (nausea; yellowing of gums, skin, eyes)
- Inability to produce adequate tears or 'dry eye' (increased blinking or discharge, eye rubbing)
- Increased drinking, urinating, bladder or kidney stones, crystals in the urine (crystalluria) and hematuria (blood in the urine)
- Circulating blood cell abnormalities (low red blood cells or anemia, low white blood cells or leukopenia, bleeding tendencies, pale gums, fatigue or fever of 103-105° F)
- Dogs can develop hypothyroidism with long-term use

- It is important to stop therapy and contact your veterinarian immediately if you think your pet has a medical problem or side effect from this product's therapy
- This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

- Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving in association with amantadine, anesthetic agents, angiotensin receptor blockers (telmisartan), ACE inhibitors (benazepril, enalapril), antacids, azathioprine, cyclosporine, detomidine, digoxin, hypoglycemic agents (glipizide, metformin), methenamine, methotrexate, phenothiazines (acepromazine, promethazine), phenytoin, potassium supplements, procainamide, pyrimethamine, rifampin, spironolactone, thiazide diuretics, tricyclic antidepressants (amitriptyline, clomipramine) and warfarin
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Trimethoprim Sulfa**
- Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian
- If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet ingests more than the prescribed amount.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

As with all prescribed medicines, **Trimethoprim Sulfa** should only be given to the pet for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed, at the prescribed dose, as directed by your veterinarian.

This is just a summary of information about **Trimethoprim Sulfa**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Trimethoprim Sulfa** or the condition for which it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.

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