

OLANZAPINE

(brand name: Zyprexa)

WHY AM I GETTING A PRESCRIPTION FOR OLANZAPINE?

Your cancer treatment may cause nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting. Olanzapine helps prevent these side effects. Even a small dose works well, and is an important part of helping you feel better during treatment.



WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I GO TO THE PHARMACY?

Olanzapine was first approved to treat certain mental health conditions. Because of this, the pharmacist may tell you about the original reason the drug was used when pick it up. This does not make your insurance or your medical record think you have a mental illness. You can tell the pharmacist: “I am taking olanzapine to help with nausea from my cancer treatment” if you wish.

WHAT ABOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS?

Most side effects listed for this drug happen in people who take higher doses for many years.

For people who take olanzapine for chemotherapy-related nausea:

- The most common side effect is tiredness.
- Your care team may suggest taking in the evening or before bed.



IS OLANZAPINE COVERED BY INSURANCE? IS IT EXPENSIVE?

Olanzapine costs less than other medicines used to prevent nausea and vomiting.

- The cost for each pill is about 20 cents.
- Most insurance plans cover it.
- If not, the low cost often makes it affordable to pay for yourself.

THESE SITES MAY BE HELPFUL TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NAUSEA AND VOMITING RELATED TO CANCER TREATMENT:

National Cancer Institute - www.cancer.gov American Society of Clinical Oncology - www.cancer.net
American Cancer Society - www.cancer.org National Comprehensive Cancer Network - www.nccn.org