

# Medication Information Card

## Sevelamer Hydrochloride

(Sev – VEL – a – mer    Hi – dro – klor – ide)

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### Other names for this medication

Renagel<sup>®</sup>

### How this medication is used

This medication is called a phosphate binder. Some of the food you eat contains phosphate. After eating, phosphate breaks down into a mineral called phosphorus. The amount of phosphorus in your blood is measured by a blood test. Some people with chronic kidney disease have high phosphorus levels in the blood.

A phosphate binder medication helps lower phosphorus. It is used along with a low phosphate diet and dialysis treatments. Your doctor or dietitian will explain your treatment and diet to you.

### How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor or health care provider. It must be taken regularly even if you feel well.

Take this medication with food. Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.

## **How to take this medication (continued)**

If you miss a dose of this medication, take the missed dose as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.

Some medications cannot be absorbed into your body when taken at the same time as sevelamer. Take these medications at least 1 hour before or 3 hours after taking sevelamer. Talk to your pharmacist about the best times to take all of your medications and make a plan together.

For example, if you take a calcium supplement, it is best to take calcium and sevelamer at separate times. For example, take sevelamer with meals and calcium at bedtime.

## **While taking this medication you may notice**

- headache
- upset stomach, nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea or constipation
- more stomach gas than usual

## **Contact your doctor if you notice**

- muscle pain
- muscle weakness
- severe abdominal pain
- constipation that does not get better