



## ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

# VENLAFAXINE

**Scope (Staff):** All WNHS Staff

**Scope (Area):** Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

### Quick Links

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### Restrictions

[Formulary: Restricted](#)

### Medication Class

Serotonin and noradrenaline reuptake inhibitor

### Presentation

Capsule (modified release): 37.5mg, 75mg, 150mg

### Storage

Store below 30°C

### Dose

#### **Menopausal hot flushes**

##### **Oral:**

37.5mg once daily for a week; increase up to 75mg once daily if well tolerated

Higher doses have not been shown to be more effective and are associated with increased frequency of adverse effects

#### **Major depression, generalised anxiety disorder, panic disorder, social phobia**

##### **Oral:**

75 mg once daily; if required, increase to 150 mg once daily. Doses of up to 225 mg daily may be needed in some cases.

## Administration

### Oral

Swallow whole, do not open, crush or chew capsules or put them in water. Take with or after food to minimise gastrointestinal upset.

## Monitoring

Blood pressure at baseline and periodically during treatment as may cause hypertension

Serum sodium at baseline and periodically during treatment as may cause hyponatraemia (especially in the elderly)

Treatment with other drugs that affect serotonin levels may increase the likelihood of serotonin toxicity; avoid combinations or monitor clinical course carefully.

Manufacturer recommends dose reduction in renal and hepatic impairment

## Pregnancy

**1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:** Monitoring required

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester:** Monitoring required

**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester:** Monitoring required

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

## Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

## Comments

Venlafaxine should be slowly tapered to minimise the occurrence of discontinuation symptoms. It is suggested to reduce dose over at least four weeks.

Patient Leaflet: [Antidepressants for Menopausal Symptoms](#)

## Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

<https://healthpoint.hdwa.health.wa.gov.au/policies/Policies/NMAHS/WNHS/WNHS.OG.Menopause.pdf>

**WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:**

[Menopause and menopausal symptoms](#)

[Preoperative Medication Management](#)









## References

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The Royal Women's Hospital. Venlafaxine. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2021 [cited 2022 Jan 22]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

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