SCHEDULING STATUS

S3

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINE

NAPROXEN 250 UNIMED Tablets

NAPROXEN 500 UNIMED Tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each NAPROXEN 250 UNIMED tablet contains 250 mg naproxen.

Contains sugar: Lactose 40 mg per tablet

Each NAPROXEN 500 UNIMED tablet contains 500 mg naproxen.

Contains sugar: Lactose 80 mg per tablet

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Tablets

NAPROXEN 250 UNIMED: Yellow, flat bevel-edged, scored tablets.

NAPROXEN 500 UNIMED: Yellow, biconvexed scored tablets.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

NAPROXEN UNIMED is indicated for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, (including juvenile rheumatoid arthritis), osteoarthrosis (degenerative arthritis), ankylosing pondylitis, acute gout, acute musculoskeletal disorders (such as sprains and strains, direct trauma, limbrosacral pain, cervical spondylitis, tenosynovitis and fibrositis) and dysmenorrhoea.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Adults:

For rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthrosis and ankylosing spondylitis, the starting dose and usual maintenance dose is in the range of 500 mg to 1000 mg per day taken in two doses at twelve-hour intervals.

In the following cases a dose of 750 mg to 1000 mg per day for the acute phase is recommended:

a) in patients reporting severe night-time pain and/or morning stiffness;

b) in patients being switched to NAPROXEN UNIMED from a high dose of another antirheumatic compound and,

c) in osteoarthrosis where pain is the predominant symptom.

For the patient who requires 750 mg per day whose night-time pain and/or morning stiffness are most troublesome, 500 mg should be taken upon retiring and 250 mg upon awakening. For the patient whose day-time pain and reduced mobility are most troublesome, 500 mg should be taken upon awakening and 250 mg upon retiring.

In acute gout, the recommended dosage is 750 mg at once, then 250 mg every eight hours until the attack has passed.

For the treatment of acute musculo-skeletal disorders, the recommended dosage is 250 mg twice or thrice daily, most patients will require only 7 days treatment, but some patients may require up to 14 days.

In dysmenorrhoea, the recommended regime is 500 mg initially, followed by 250 mg every six to eight hours.

Children:

For juvenile arthritis in children over 5 years of age the usual dosage is 10 mg per kg body- mass per day in two doses at twelve-hour intervals.

NAPROXEN UNIMED is not recommended for use in other indications in children under sixteen years of age.

Use the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration of treatment.

NAPROXEN UNIMED should be taken with food.

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to naproxen, naproxen sodium or any of the ingredients listed in section 6.1.
- Hypersensitivity or allergic reactions to aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents.
- Patients in whom aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory / analgesic medicines induce the
- syndrome of asthma, rhinitis, nasal polyps or urticaria. These reactions have the potential of being fatal. Severe anaphylactic-like reactions to naproxen have been reported in such patients.
- NAPROXEN UNIMED should not be used in pregnant women or mothers breastfeeding their infants.
- Heart failure.
- History of gastrointestinal perforation, ulceration or bleeding (PUBs) related to previous NSAIDs.
- Active or history of recurrent ulcer/haemorrhage/perforations.
- Porphyria.
- Children: NAPROXEN UNIMED is not recommended for use in children under the age of 16 years.
- Severe renal function impairment: NAPROXEN UNIMED is not recommended in patients with baseline creatinine clearance of less than 20 ml/minute because accumulation of naproxen metabolites has been seen in such patients (see section 4.4).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

NAPROXEN UNIMED should be given under close supervision to patients with a history of gastro-intestinal bleeding, with a history of bronchospasm (asthma), with impaired renal or liver function and elderly patients or patients with cardiovascular disease.

Patients who have exhibited aspirin hypersensitivity in the past (usually as the angio-oedema/asthma syndrome) may exhibit the same phenomenon on NAPROXEN UNIMED. Bronchospasm may be precipitated in patients suffering from, or with a previous history of bronchial asthma or allergic disease.

Undesirable effects may be minimised by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms (see section 4.2, and GI cardiovascular risks below).

Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular effects

Appropriate monitoring and advice are required for patients with a history of hypertension and/or mild to moderate congestive heart failure as fluid retention, oedema and mild peripheral oedema have been reported in association with NAPROXEN UNIMED therapy. In view of NAPROXEN UNIMED's inherent potential to cause fluid retention, heart failure may be precipitated in some compromised patient.

Clinical trial and epidemiological data suggest that use of coxibs and some NSAIDs (particularly at high doses and in long term treatment) may be associated with a small increased risk of arterial thrombotic events (for example myocardial infarction or stroke). Although data suggest that the use of NAPROXEN UNIMED (1000 mg daily) may be associated with a lower risk, some risk cannot be excluded.

Patients with uncontrolled hypertension, congestive heart failure, established ischaemic heart disease, peripheral arterial disease, and/or cerebrovascular disease should only be treated with naproxen after careful consideration. Similar consideration should be made before initiating longer-term treatment of patients with risk factors for cardiovascular disease (e.g. hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes mellitus, smoking).

Gastrointestinal bleeding, ulceration and perforation

GI bleeding, ulceration or perforation, which can be fatal, has been reported with NAPROXEN UNIMED at any time during treatment, with or without warning symptoms or a previous history of serious GI events.

The risk of GI bleeding, ulceration or perforation is higher.

- with increasing NAPROXEN UNIMED doses
- in patients with a history of ulcer, particularly if complicated with haemorrhage or perforation (see section 4.3)
- in the elderly
- when used with alcohol
- in smoking

These patients should commence NAPROXEN UNIMED treatment on the lowest dose available. Combination therapy with protective medicine (e.g. misoprostol or proton pump inhibitors) should be considered for these patients, and also for patients requiring concomitant low dose aspirin, or other medicines likely to increase gastrointestinal risk (see below and section 4.5).

Patients with a history of GI toxicity, particularly the elderly, should report any unusual abdominal symptoms (especially GI bleeding) particularly in the initial stages of treatment.

Caution should be advised in patients receiving concomitant medications which could increase the risk of ulceration or bleeding, such as oral corticosteroids, anticoagulants such as warfarin, selective serotonin- reuptake inhibitors or antiplatelet medicine such as aspirin (see section 4.5). When GI bleeding or ulceration occurs in patients receiving NAPROXEN UNIMED, the treatment should be withdrawn.

NAPROXEN UNIMED should be given with caution to patients with a history of gastrointestinal disease (e.g. ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, hiatus hernia, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, angiodysplasia) as these condition may be exacerbated (see section 4.8). The risk of gastrointestinal perforation, ulceration or bleeding (PUBs) is higher with increasing dose and duration of NAPROXEN UNIMED treatment, in patients with a history of ulcers, and the elderly.

When gastrointestinal bleeding or ulceration occurs in patients receiving NAPROXEN UNIMED, treatment with NAPROXEN UNIMED should be stopped.

Cardiovascular, Renal and Hepatic Impairment

The administration of NAPROXEN UNIMED may cause a dose dependent reduction in prostaglandin formation and precipitate renal failure. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with impaired renal function, cardiac impairment, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics and the elderly. Renal function should be monitored in these patients (see also section 4.3).

Impaired renal function

There have been reports of impaired renal function, renal failure, acute interstitial nephritis, haematuria, proteinuria, renal papillary necrosis and occasionally nephrotic syndrome associated with naproxen- containing products.

NAPROXEN UNIMED should be used with caution in patients with impaired renal function or a history of kidney disease, especially if long-term usage is considered as NAPROXEN UNIMED is an inhibitor of prostaglandin synthesis.

Caution should be taken in patients with conditions leading to a reduction in blood volume and/or renal blood flow where renal prostaglandins play a supportive role in the maintenance of renal perfusion. In these patients' administration of NAPROXEN UNIMED may lead to a dose-dependent reduction in renal prostaglandin formation and may cause overt renal decompensation or failure.

Patients with the greatest risk of developing this reaction are those with impaired renal function, hypovolaemia, heart failure, liver dysfunction, salt depletion, those taking diuretics and the elderly. Discontinuation of NAPROXEN UNIMED is generally followed by recovery to the pre-treatment state.

As naproxen is eliminated to a large extent (95%) by urinary excretion via glomerular filtration it should be used with great caution in patients with impaired renal function and the monitoring of serum creatinine and/or creatinine clearance is advised in these patients. NAPROXEN UNIMED is not recommended in patients having baseline clearance less than 20 ml/minute, because accumulation of naproxen metabolites has been seen in these patients (see section 4.3).

Certain patients, specifically those where renal blood flow is compromised, such as in the extracellular volume depletion, cirrhosis of the liver, sodium restriction. congestive heart failure and pre-existing renal disease, should have renal function assessed before and during NAPROXEN UNIMED therapy. Elderly patients in whom impaired renal function may be expected could also fall within this category. A reduction in daily dosage is recommended to avoid the possibility of excessive accumulation of naproxen metabolites in these patients.

Impaired liver function

Elevations of one or more liver function tests may occur. Hepatic abnormalities could be the result of hypersensitivity rather than direct toxicity. Severe hepatic reactions, including jaundice and hepatitis (some cases of hepatitis have been fatal) have been reported. Cross-reactivity has been reported. Lines 139 – 141 Chronic alcoholic liver disease and probably also other forms of cirrhosis reduce the total plasma concentration of naproxen but the plasma concentration of unbound naproxen is increased. The implication of this finding for NAPROXEN UNIMED dosing is unknown but it is prudent to use the lowest effective dose. Caution is advised when using NAPROXEN UNIMED in patients with hepatic diseases.

Haematological

NAPROXEN UNIMED decreases platelet aggregation and prolongs bleeding time. This effect should be brought into consideration when bleeding times are determined. Patients who suffer from coagulation disorders or are receiving medicine therapy that interferes with haemostasis should be carefully monitored if NAPROXEN UNIMED is administered.

Patients at high risk of bleeding, and those on full anticoagulation therapy, may be at increased risk of bleeding if given NAPROXEN UNIMED concurrently.

As it causes an increased bleeding tendency it should be given with caution to patients receiving coumarin anti-coagulants such as warfarin, and to patients with bleeding disorders and cardiovascular disease. BIO-NAPROXEN may interfere with some tests for 17-ketogenic steroids.

Elderly

The elderly has an increased frequency of adverse reactions to NSAIDs including NAPROXEN UNIMED, especially gastrointestinal perforation, ulceration, and bleeding (PUBs) which may be fatal (see section 4.2). Elderly or debilitated patients may be at a greater risk of experiencing undesirable effects than younger patients. In elderly patients the clearance is reduced. Although total plasma concentration of naproxen in unchanged, the unbound plasma fraction of naproxen is increased in the elderly. Caution is advised and lower doses might be required. Use of the lowest possible dose is recommended.

Respiratory disorders

Caution is required if NAPROXEN UNIMED is administered to patients suffering from, or with a previous history of, bronchial asthma since NAPROXEN UNIMED have been reported to precipitate bronchospasm in such patients.

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and mixed connective tissue disease

In patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and mixed connective tissue disorders there may be an increased risk of aseptic meningitis (see section 4.8).

Dermatological

Serious skin reactions, some of them fatal, including exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis have been reported very rarely in association with the use of NAPROXEN UNIMED (see section 4.8). Patients appear to be at highest risk for these reactions early in the course of therapy: the onset of the reaction occurring in the majority of cases within the first month of treatment. NAPROXEN UNIMED should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash, mucosal lesions, or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

Drug Reaction with Eosinophillia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) has been reported in patients taking NSAIDs such as NAPROXEN UNIMED. Some of these events have been fatal or life-threatening. DRESS typically, although not exclusively, presents with fever, rash, lymphadenopathy, and/or facial swelling. Other clinical manifestations may include hepatitis, nephritis, haematological abnormalities, myocarditis, or myositis. Sometimes symptoms of DRESS may resemble an acute viral infection. Eosinophillia is often present. Because this disorder is variable in its presentation, other organ systems not noted here may be involved. It is important to note that early manifestations of hypersensitivity, such as fever or lymphadenopathy, may be present even though rash is not evident. If such signs or symptoms are present, discontinue NAPROXEN UNIMED and evaluate the patient immediately.

Impaired female fertility

The use of NAPROXEN UNIMED may impair female fertility and is not recommended in women attempting to conceive. In women who have difficulties conceiving or who are undergoing investigation of fertility, withdrawal of naproxen should be considered.

Anaphylactic (anaphylactoid) reactions:

Hypersensitivity reactions may occur in susceptible individuals. Anaphylactic (anaphylactoid) reactions may occur both in patients with and without a history of hypersensitivity or exposure to aspirin, other non- steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines or naproxen-containing products such as NAPROXEN UNIMED. They may also occur in individuals with a history of angioedema, bronchospastic reactivity (e.g. asthma), rhinitis and nasal polyps.

Anaphylactoid reactions, like anaphylaxis, may have a fatal outcome.

Because of the possibility of cross-sensitivity due to structural relationships which exist among non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory medicines, acute allergic reactions are more likely to occur in patients who have exhibited previous allergic reactions to these compounds.

Naproxen, in common with other NSAIDs, decreases platelet aggregation and prolongs bleeding time. This effect should be brought into consideration when bleeding times are determined. Patients who have coagulation disorders or who are receiving medicine therapy that affects with haemostasis should be carefully observed when given NAPROXEN UNIMED (see section 4.5)

Patients who have exhibited aspirin hypersensitivity in the past (usually as the angioedema/asthma syndrome) may exhibit the same phenomenon with NAPROXEN UNIMED. Bronchospasm may be precipitated in such patients and in patients suffering from, or with a history of bronchial asthma or allergic disease (see section 4.3).

Patients on full anticoagulation therapy (e.g. heparin or warfarin), may be at an increased risk of bleeding if given NAPROXEN UNIMED concurrently. Therefore, the benefits should be weighed against these risks.

Mild peripheral oedema has been observed in a few patients receiving NAPROXEN UNIMED. Although sodium retention has not been reported in metabolic studies, it is possible that patients with questionable or compromised function may be at a greater risk when taking NAPROXEN UNIMED.

Steroids

If the corticosteroid dosage is reduced or eliminated during NAPROXEN UNIMED therapy, the corticosteroid dosage must be reduced gradually and the patient must be monitored closely for any evidence of adverse effects, including adrenal insufficiency and worsening of symptoms of arthritis.

Ocular effects

Studies have not shown changes in the eye attributable to NAPROXEN UNIMED administration. In rare cases, adverse ocular disorders including papillitis, retrobulbar optic neuritis and papilloedema have been reported in users of NSAIDs including NAPROXEN UNIMED, although a cause-and-effect relationship cannot be established; accordingly, patients who develop visual disturbances during treatment with NAPROXEN UNIMED should have an ophthalmological examination.

Combination with other NSAIDs

The combination of NAPROXEN UNIMED and other NSAIDs is not recommended, because of the cumulative risks of inducing serious NSAID-related adverse events.

The use of NAPROXEN UNIMED with concomitant NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors should be avoided (see section 4.5).

The antipyretic and anti-inflammatory activities of NAPROXEN UNIMED may reduce fever and inflammation thereby diminishing their utility as diagnostic signs.

Interference in tests

Sporadic abnormalities in laboratory tests (eg. liver function tests) have occurred in patients on NAPROXEN UNIMED therapy. This effect should be kept in mind when bleeding times are determined. It is suggested that NAPROXEN UNIMED therapy be temporarily discontinued 48 hours before adrenal function tests are performed, because NAPROXEN UNIMED may interfere with some assays of urinary 5-hydroxy-indoleacetic acid, and with some tests for 17-ketogenic steroids.

Medication Overuse Headache (MOH)

After long term treatment with analgesics, headache may develop or aggravate. Headache caused by overuse of analgesics (MOH - medication-overuse headache) should be suspected in patients who have frequent or daily headaches despite (or because of) regular use of analgesics. Patients with medication overuse headache should not be treated by increasing the dose. In such cases the use of analgesics should be discontinued in consultation with a doctor.

Pregnancy

Regular use of NSAIDs during the third trimester of pregnancy may result in premature closure of the foetal ductus arteriosus in utero and possibly in persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn. The onset of labour may be delayed and its duration increased.

The administration of Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's) around 20 weeks or later in pregnant patients may cause serious kidney problems in an unborn baby. This may lead to low levels of amniotic fluid because around 20 weeks of pregnancy the unborn baby's kidneys produces amniotic fluid. Amniotic fluid

provides a protective cushion and helps the lungs, digestive system, and muscles of the unborn baby to develop (see section 4.3).
Medicines that inhibit prostaglandin synthesis, like NAPROXEN UNIMED, may adversely affect pregnancy and/or the embryo or foetal's development. The risk is believed to increase with an increased dose and/or duration of therapy.
It is recommended to avoid the administration of NAPROXEN UNIMED in pregnant woman at 20 weeks or later (see section 4.3). Unless specifically advised by a healthcare professional to administer NAPROXEN UNIMED between 20 and 30 weeks, the dose should be kept as low and the duration of treatment as short as possible, ultrasound monitoring of amniotic fluid is recommended if NAPROXEN UNIMED treatment extends beyond 48 hours.
NAPROXEN UNIMED may cause renal dysfunction, which may progress to renal failure with oligohydroamniosis, and in some cases neonatal renal impairment. Complications of prolonged oligohydramnios may include limb contractures and delayed lung maturation. Oligohydramnios may be reversible with treatment. Discontinuation and possible prolongation of bleeding time due to the anti- aggregating effect which may occur even at very low doses of NAPROXEN UNIMED.

Renal Tubular Acidosis
Severe hypokalaemia and renal tubular acidosis have been reported due to prolonged use of NSAIDs at higher than recommended doses. NSAID induced renal tubular acidosis should be considered in patients with unexplained hypokalaemia and metabolic acidosis.

NAPROXEN UNIMED contains lactose: Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take NAPROXEN UNIMED.

4.5 Interaction with other medicines and other forms of interaction
Due to the high plasma protein binding of naproxen patients simultaneously receiving hydantoins, anticoagulants or other highly protein-bound sulfonamide should be observed for signs of potentiation or overdosage of these medicines. No interactions have been observed in clinical studies with naproxen or sulfonylureas, but caution is nevertheless advised since interaction has been seen with other non-steroidal medicines of this class.
NSAIDs: use of two or more NSAIDs concomitantly could result in an increase in side effects. Inhibition of renal lithium clearance leading to increases in plasma lithium concentrations has been reported with the use of NSAIDs, including NAPROXEN UNIMED. Decreased elimination of lithium. It is recommended that these levels are monitored whenever initiating, adjusting or discontinuing naproxen.

Anti-hypertensives: NAPROXEN UNIMED can reduce the anti-hypertensive effect of propranolol and possibly other beta-blockers. Concomitant administration of NAPROXEN UNIMED with beta blockers may increase the risk of renal impairment associated with the use of ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II receptor antagonists.

Probenecid: concurrent administration increases naproxen plasma levels and extends its half-life considerably.

Decreased elimination of Methotrexate: Serious interactions have been reported after the use of high-dose methotrexate with NAPROXEN UNIMED. Caution is advice when methotrexate is administered concurrently, due to the possible enhancement of its toxicity as NAPROXEN UNIMED, like other NSAIDs has been reported to reduce tubular secretion of methotrexate in an animal model.

Furosemide: The natriuretic effect of furosemide has been reported to be inhibited by NAPROXEN UNIMED.

Glycosides: NSAIDs may exacerbate cardiac failure, reduce GFR and increase plasma cardiac glycoside levels when co-administered with cardiac glycosides.

Cyclosporin: As with all NSAIDs, caution is advised when ciclosporin is co-administered because of the increased risk of nephrotoxicity.

Mifepristone: NSAIDs should not be used for 8-12 days after mifepristone administration as NSAIDs can reduce the effects of mifepristone. **Corticosteroids:** As with all NSAIDs, caution should be taken when co-administered with corticosteroids because of the increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or bleeding (see section 4.4).

Other analgesics including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors: Avoid concomitant use of two or more NSAIDs as this may increase the risk of adverse effects (see section 4.4).

Acetylsalicylic acid: Clinical pharmacodynamic data suggest that concomitant NAPROXEN UNIMED usage for more than one day consecutively may inhibit the effect of low-dose acetylsalicylic acid on platelet activity and this inhibition may persist for up to several days after stopping NAPROXEN UNIMED therapy. The clinical relevance of this interaction is not known.

Diuretics: NSAIDs may reduce the effect of diuretics and antihypertensive medicinal products. The risk of acute renal insufficiency, which is usually reversible, may be increased in some patients with compromised renal function (e.g. dehydrated patients or elderly patients) when angiotensin II receptor antagonists are combined with NSAIDs. Therefore, the combination should be administered with caution, especially in the elderly. Patients should be adequately hydrated, and consideration should be given to monitoring of renal function after initiation of concomitant therapy, and periodically thereafter. Diuretics can increase the risk of nephrotoxicity of NSAIDs.

Anti-coagulants: NAPROXEN UNIMED may enhance the effects of anti-coagulants such as warfarin (see section 4.4).

Quinolone antibiotics: Animal data indicate that NSAIDs can increase the risk of convulsions associated with quinolone antibiotics. Patients taking NSAIDs and quinolone may have an increased risk of developing convulsions.

Anti-platelet medicines and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs): increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding (see section 4.4). **Tacrolimus:** Possible increased risk of nephrotoxicity when NSAIDs are given with tacrolimus.

Zidovudine: Increased risk of haematological toxicity when NSAIDs are given with zidovudine. There is evidence of an increased risk of haem arthroses and haematoma in HIV (+) haemophiliacs receiving concurrent treatment with zidovudine and ibuprofen.

Bisphosphonates: concomitant use of bisphosphonates and NSAIDs may increase the risk of gastric mucosal damage.

Antacids or cholestyramine: the concurrent administration with NAPROXEN UNIMED can delay the absorption of NAPROXEN UNIMED. NAPROXEN UNIMED should be taken at least one hour before or four to six hours after cholestyramine.

Food: concomitant administration can delay the absorption of NAPROXEN UNIMED but does not affect the extent thereof.

Lithium: inhibition of renal lithium clearance leading to increases in plasma lithium concentrations has been reported.

Cardiac glycosides: increased plasma concentrations of digoxin have been reported.

ACE inhibitors and potassium-sparing diuretics: concomitant administration may increase the risk of hyperkalaemia.

Thyroid function tests: NAPROXEN UNIMED may interfere with thyroid function tests by lowering serum thyroid hormone concentrations.

Adrenal function tests: it is advised that NAPROXEN UNIMED therapy should be temporarily discontinued 48 hours before these tests are performed. NAPROXEN UNIMED may artifactually interfere with some tests for 17- ketogenic steroids. NAPROXEN UNIMED may similarly interfere with some urinary assays of 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (5-HIAA).

Aspirin: Plasma concentrations of NAPROXEN UNIMED are significantly decreased by concomitant administration of therapeutic doses of aspirin.

Thiazide diuretics, beta-adrenergic antagonists, prazosin and captopril: NAPROXEN UNIMED may reduce the diuretic, natriuretic and anti-hypertensive effects of these medicines, due to the inhibition of synthesis of renal prostaglandins.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may adversely affect the pregnancy and/or the embryo/foetal development. Data from epidemiological studies suggest an increased risk of miscarriage and of cardiac malformation after use of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor in early pregnancy. The absolute risk for cardiovascular malformation was increased from less than 1 %, up to approximately 1.5 %. The risk is believed to increase with dose and duration

of therapy. In animals, administration of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor has been shown to result in increased pre- and post-implantation loss and embryo-foetal lethality. In addition, increased incidences of various malformations, including cardiovascular, have been reported in animals given a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor during the organogenetic period.

During the first and second trimester of pregnancy, NAPROXEN UNIMED should not be given unless clearly necessary. If NAPROXEN UNIMED is used by a woman attempting to conceive, or during the first and second trimester of pregnancy, the dose should be kept as low and duration of treatment as short as possible.

- During the third trimester of pregnancy, all prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors may expose the foetus to: cardiopulmonary toxicity (with premature closure of the ductus arteriosus and pulmonary hypertension);
- renal dysfunction, which may progress to renal failure with oligo-hydramniosis
- the mother and the neonate, at the end of pregnancy to:
- possible prolongation of bleeding time, an anti-aggregating effect which may occur even at very low doses.
- inhibition of uterine contractions resulting in delayed or prolonged labour.

Consequently, NAPROXEN UNIMED is contraindicated during the last trimester of pregnancy.

Breastfeeding

NAPROXEN UNIMED crosses the placenta and has been found in the milk of lactating mothers.

In limited studies so far available, NAPROXEN UNIMED can appear in breast milk in very low concentrations.

NAPROXEN UNIMED should be avoided when breastfeeding.

Fertility

If NAPROXEN UNIMED is administered to woman attempting to conceive, or during the first and second trimester of pregnancy, the dose should be kept as low and the duration of treatment as short as possible.

See section 4.4 for use regarding female fertility.

4.7 Effects on the ability to drive and use machines

Undesirable effects such as drowsiness, dizziness, fatigue and visual disturbances are possible after taking NAPROXEN UNIMED. If affected, patients should not drive or operate machinery.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Tabulated summary of adverse reactions

System organ class	Adverse Reaction	Frequency
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Haemolytic anaemia, granulocytopenia, thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis.	Less frequent
	Leukopenia, neutropenia, eosinophilia, anaemias including aplastic anaemia.	Frequency not known

System organ class	Adverse Reaction	Frequency
Immune system disorders	Allergic and hypersensitivity reactions anaphylaxis including fever, asthma, rashes, hepatotoxicity, anaphylactoid reaction. Laryngeal oedema, serum sickness-like reaction, lymphadenopathy, Patients who have exhibited aspirin hypersensitivity in the past (usually as the angio- oedema/asthma syndrome) may exhibit the same phenomenon with NAPROXEN UNIMED.	Less frequent Frequency not known
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Hyperkalaemia.	Less frequent
Psychiatric disorders	Depression, cognitive dysfunction, insomnia, inability to concentrate, dream abnormalities. Hallucinations.	Less frequent Frequency not known
Nervous system disorders	Confusion,dizziness, drowsiness, headache, light-headedness Convulsions, aseptic meningitis*	Frequent Less frequent
Nervous system disorders	Malaise, nervousness, headache, vertigo, paraesthesia, exacerbation of Parkinson's Disease.	Frequency not known
Eye disorders	Visual disturbances Blurred vision and other ocular reactions, corneal opacity, papillitis, retrobulbar, optic neuritis and papilloedema.	Frequent Frequency not known
Ear and labyrinth disorders	Hearing disturbance, tinnitus. Hearing impairment.	Frequent Less frequent
Cardiac disorders	Oedema. Palpitations. Cardiac failure, angioneurotic oedema, congestive heart failure, pericarditis.	Frequent Less frequent Frequency not known
Vascular disorders	Vasculitis arterial thrombotic events e.g. myocardial infarction or stroke (see 4.4). Hypertension.	Less frequent Frequency not known
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Aggravated asthma, eosinophilic pneumonitis. Dyspnoea bronchospasm, rhinitis, pulmonary oedema, haemoptysis.	Less frequent Frequency not known
Gastrointestinal disorders	Pancreatitis. Thirst, peptic ulcers, perforation or gastrointestinal bleeding**, sometimes fatal. nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, flatulence, constipation, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, melaena, haematemesis, ulcerative stomatitis, exacerbation of colitis and Crohn's disease (see section 4.4), gastritis, colitis, oesophagitis, non-peptic gastrointestinal ulceration, abdominal discomfort	Less frequent Frequency not known

System organ class	Adverse Reaction	Frequency
Hepato-biliary disorders	Hepatitis (some cases of hepatitis have been fatal), jaundice. Abnormalities of liver function tests.	Less frequent Frequency not known
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Ecchymoses, itching (pruritus), purpura, skin eruptions, sweating, skin rash. Bullous reactions, including Stevens- Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis, erythema multiforme, urticaria, alopecia, photosensitivity reactions, including cases of porphyria cutanea tarda or epidermolysis bullos. If skin fragility, blistering or other symptoms suggestive of pseudoporphyria occur, treatment should be discontinued immediately, and the patient closely monitored. Erythema nodosum, fixed drug eruption, lichen planus, pustular reaction, SLE, angio-oedema, epidermal necrosis, exfoliative and bullous dermatoses, Drug Reaction with Eosinophillia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) (see section 4.4).	Frequent Less frequent Frequency not known
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Myalgia, muscle Weakness.	Less frequent
Renal and urinary disorders	Glomerular nephritis, haematuria, interstitial nephritis, nephritic syndrome, renal papillary necrosis. Impairment of renal function, hyperkalaemia, renal disease, reversible renal failure, raised serum creatinine and fluid retention may occur, nephropathy, hypokalaemia***, renal tubular acidosis***	Less frequent Frequency not known
Reproductive system and breast disorders	Unexplained vaginal bleeding and/or heavy menstrual bleeding. Impaired female fertility (see 4.4).	Less frequent Frequency not known
General disorders and administration site complications	Fatigue. Mild peripheral oedema, pyrexia (chills and fever).	Frequent Frequency not known

*especially in patients with existing auto-immune disorders, such as system lupus erythematosus, mixed connective tissue disease, with symptoms such as stiff neck headache, nausea, vomiting, fever and disorientation.

** sometimes fatal, particularly in the elderly, may occur (See section 4.4).

**Renal tubular acidosis and hypokalaemia have been reported in the post-marketing setting typically following prolonged use of higher than recommended doses.

Clinical trial and epidemiological data suggest that use of some NSAIDs (particularly at high doses and in long term treatment) may be associated with an increased risk of arterial thrombotic events (for example myocardial infarction or stroke (see section 4.4).

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicine is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicine. Healthcare providers are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions to SAHPRA via the "6.04 Adverse Drug Reactions Reporting Form", found online under SAHPRA's publications: https://www.sahpra.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GLF-CEM-PV-06A_v1-Adverse-Drug-Reactions-and-Quality-Problem-Reporting-Form.pdf

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms

Headache, vomiting, gastrointestinal bleeding, rarely diarrhoea, disorientation, excitation, coma, dizziness, drowsiness, epigastric pain, abdominal discomfort, heartburn, indigestion, nausea, tinnitus, fainting, occasionally convulsions. In cases of significant poisoning acute renal failure and liver damage are possible. NAPROXEN UNIMED may be absorbed rapidly, and high blood levels could be reached quickly.

Treatment

Patients should be treated symptomatically as required. Within one hour of ingestion of a potentially toxic amount, activated charcoal should be considered. Alternatively, in adults, gastric lavage should be considered within one hour of ingestion of a potentially life-threatening overdose. Good urine output should be ensured. Renal and liver function should be closely monitored. Patients should be observed for at least four hours after ingestion of potentially toxic amounts. Frequent or prolonged convulsions should be treated with intravenous diazepam.

Prolonged use at higher than recommended doses may result in severe hypokalaemia and renal tubular acidosis (see section 4.4 and 4.8).

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

A 3.1 Antirheumatics (anti-inflammatory agents)

NAPROXEN UNIMED has anti-inflammatory, antipyretic and analgesic properties. It inhibits prostaglandin synthetase.

Mechanism of action

Naproxen reduces the synthesis of prostaglandins primarily by inhibiting the enzyme cyclo-oxygenase. Naproxen has been shown to have anti-inflammatory activity in a number of experimental models. Naproxen inhibits prostaglandin E2 synthesis in vitro by human rheumatoid synovial microsomes. It also inhibits prostaglandin E2 production by phytohemagglutinin-stimulated peripheral blood mononuclear cells. At 10-4 M (23mg.1-1) naproxen inhibits neutral protease activity derived from human polymorphonuclear leucocytes. Naproxen also inhibits in vitro the activity of cathepsin-β and other hydrolytic enzymes derived from lysosomes. Naproxen is a potent in inhibitor of leucocyte migration and produces effects comparable to those of colchicine.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Naproxen is readily absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract.

Distribution

Peak plasma levels being reached 2 to 4 hours after ingestion. Plasma concentrations of naproxen increase proportionally with dose up to about 500 mg daily; at higher doses there is an increase in clearance caused by saturation of plasma proteins. At therapeutic concentrations naproxen is more than 99 % bound to plasma proteins and has a plasma half-life of about 13 hours.

Elimination

Approximately 95 % of a dose is excreted in the urine as Naproxen and 6-O-desmethyl naproxen and their conjugates. Less than 3 % of a dose has been recovered in the faeces. Naproxen crosses the placenta and is excreted in breast milk.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Lactose monohydrate, starch, sodium starch glycolate, pregelatinised starch, purified talc, magnesium stearate, quinolone yellow [3.2.P.1]

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store at or below 25 °C and protect from light.

6.5 Nature and contents of the container

NAPROXEN 250 UNIMED: Securitainers containing 30, 100, 250 and 500 tablets.

(NAPROXEN 500 UNIMED): Securitainers containing 10, 30, 100, 250 and 500 tablets.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7 HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Unimed Healthcare (Pty) Ltd

Block A, 1st Floor, Office No 1,

Signet Terrace Office Park,

19 Guinea Fowl Street,

Ext 1, Lenasia,1827

South Africa

8 REGISTRATION NUMBERS

NAPROXEN 250 UNIMED: 27/3.1/0534

NAPROXEN 500 UNIMED: 28/3.1/0340

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/ RENEWAL OF THE AUTORISATION

NAPROXEN 250 UNIMED: 5 July 1993

NAPROXEN 500 UNIMED: 14 March 1994

10 DATE OF THE REVISION OF THE TEXT

27 July 2023