

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET**SCHEDULING STATUS** **S4****CEPHALEXIN 250 PHARMA-Q capsules****CEPHALEXIN 500 PHARMA-Q capsules****cefaalexin monohydrate****Sugar free****CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q 125 mg/5 ml powder for oral suspension****cefaalexin monohydrate****Contains sugar (sucrose): 2,304 g per 5 ml****Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking CEPHALEXIN 250 PHARMA-Q**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, please ask your doctor, pharmacist, nurse or other health care provider.
- CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q has been prescribed for you personally and you should not share your medicine with other people. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

What is in this leaflet

1. What CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q
3. How to take CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q is and what it is used for

CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q contains cephalexin monohydrate as the active ingredient, which belongs to a class of antibiotics called 'cephalosporins'. CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q is used to treat the following infections, caused by bacteria that can be killed by cephalexin:

- Respiratory tract (lung and airways) infections
- Middle ear infections (otitis media)
- Skin and soft tissue (e.g. muscle) infections
- Infections of the reproductive organs and urinary tract including acute infections of the prostate gland (prostatitis)
- Dental infections.

2. What you need to know before you take CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q

Do not take CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q:

- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to cephalexin, or any of the other ingredients of CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q (listed in Section 6.1)
- If you know you are allergic (hypersensitive) to other cephalosporins (similar group of antibiotics)
- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding (see Pregnancy and Breastfeeding).

Warnings and precautions:

Take special care with CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q:

Before taking CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q, tell your doctor or pharmacist if:

- you have had an allergic reaction to cephalexin, cephalosporins, penicillins or other medicines in the past
- you have ever developed a severe skin rash or skin peeling, blistering and/or mouth sores after taking cephalexin or other antibacterials
- you have a kidney problem (you may need a reduced dose).

While taking CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q tell your doctor or pharmacist if:

- you develop severe or prolonged diarrhoea or inflammation of the colon (pseudomembranous colitis) during or after taking CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q. This condition may be associated with overgrowth of certain bacteria and may be life-threatening.
- you develop a serious skin reaction called acute generalised exanthematous (AGEP) at the initiation of treatment as a red, scaly widespread rash with bumps under the skin (mainly localised on the skin folds, trunk, and upper extremities), and blisters accompanied by fever. If you develop a serious skin rash or any another of these skin symptoms, stop taking CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q and contact your doctor or seek medical attention immediately.
- you have kidney problems or you are elderly, you may be more likely to develop side effects that affects your nervous system, e.g. fits (see Side effects).

Tell your doctor if you need to have blood and urine test, as cefalexin may interfere with some of these tests.

Other medicines and CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q

Always tell your health care provider if you are taking any other medicine. (This includes all complementary or traditional medicines.)

In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:

- Any other antibiotics (e.g. aminoglycoside antibiotics such as gentamicin or tobramycin may increase your risk of kidney damage, while bacteriostatic antibacterials, e.g. tetracycline may result in your treatment being less effective)
- probenecid (a treatment for gout) may delay the excretion of cefalexin and lead to increased side effects
- potent diuretics e.g. furosemide (water tablets used to treat high blood pressure or water retention) increase the risk of kidney damage
- oestrogen containing contraceptives (may become less effective).

CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q with food, drink and alcohol

CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q may be taken before, during or after your meals.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other health care provider for advice before taking CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q. The safety of CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q has during pregnancy and breastfeeding has not been established.

Driving and using machines

CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q may cause unwanted side effects that include dizziness, drowsiness, or confusion. You should not drive or operate machinery until you know that CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q does not affect adversely.

CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q contains sugar (sucrose)

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine. CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q suspension contains sucrose which may have an effect on the control of your blood sugar if you have diabetes mellitus.

3. How to take CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q

Do not share medicines prescribed for you with any other person.

Always take CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure.

Your doctor will tell you how long your treatment with CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q will last. Do not stop your treatment early because your infection may reoccur. If you have the impression that the effect of CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q is too strong or too weak, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Adults:

The usual daily dose ranges from 1 g to 4 g a day, in equally divided doses. The usual adult

dosage is 250 mg every 6 hours, or for certain infections your doctor may prescribe 500 mg every 12 hours.

If you are suffering from more severe infections, your doctor may prescribe larger doses. However, if the required daily dose required is higher than 4 g your doctor may recommend injectable antibiotics.

Your doctor will tell you how long of your treatment will last. For the treatment of certain bacterial infections of the throat and skin (beta-haemolytic streptococcal infections), CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q should be administered for at least 10 days.

Elderly and patients with abnormal renal function

The dose will be the same as the usual adult dose, unless you have severe kidney problems, in which case your dosage will be reduced. Adults who are not able to take capsules may be given CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q.

Children

The doctor will calculate the correct dose, depending on the child's weight.

The usual recommended daily dose is 25 mg to 50 mg per kg body weight. The dose is divided into equal doses given every 6 hours.

Directions for mixing

For instructions on preparing CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q powder for oral suspension before use, see section 6.

If you take more CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q than you should

In the event of overdosage, consult your doctor or pharmacist. If neither is available, contact the nearest hospital or poison control centre. Take this leaflet, the pack or any capsules with you.

If you missed a dose of CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time to take the next dose, skip the missed dose and carry on as before. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

Effects when treatment with CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q is stopped

Do not stop taking CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q without telling your doctor, even if you feel better.

If you stop taking CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q too soon, your infection may return or get worse.

4. Possible side effects

CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q can have side effects. Not all side effects reported for CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q are included in this leaflet. Should your general health worsen or if you experience any untoward effects while taking CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q, please consult your health care provider for advice.

If any of the following happens, stop taking CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q and tell your doctor immediately or go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital:

- shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives or red wheals on the skin (urticaria). These are the signs of hypersensitivity reactions and may also include a sudden life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) and fainting.

These are all very serious side effects. If you have them, you may have had a serious reaction to CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- Serious skin conditions causing peeling or blistering of the skin
- severe diarrhoea caused
- by inflammation of the colon (pseudomembranous colitis, see section 2. Warnings and precautions)
- a red, scaly widespread rash with bumps under the skin and blisters accompanied by fever at the initiation of treatment, see section 2 (acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis)

- fits, seizures and confusion particularly in patients with damaged kidneys
- loss of appetite, feeling generally unwell, fever, itching, yellowing of the skin and eyes, light coloured bowel motions, dark coloured urine. (These may be manifestation of inflammation of the liver)
- jaundice (yellow skin and eyes)
- reactions resembling serum sickness-like reactions (an immune hypersensitivity reaction causes an itchy rash, fever and joint pain, often occurring within 10 days after starting to take CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q)

These are all serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

Frequent

- Changes to blood counts determined by blood test, e.g. increased number of white blood cells (eosinophils), decreased platelets or red blood cells.
- headache
- feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting) diarrhoea.

Less frequent

- Changes in blood counts, which may show up as bruising or a very tired feeling. You will need a blood test to confirm this
- dizziness, drowsiness and tiredness (fatigue)
- stomach cramps or spasms
- overgrowth of other infections
- damage to your kidneys or liver which can be detected by a blood and/or urine test
- vulval thrush infection (vaginal itching or irritation)
- changes in the results of certain laboratory tests: abnormal liver function tests or increased levels of liver enzymes, or positive results of a type of blood test called Coombs' test.

Frequency unknown

- Agitation
- seeing or hearing things (hallucinations)
- myoclonus (muscle-twitching), trembling or shaking (tremor)
- encephalopathy (non-inflammatory brain disease)
- hyperactivity (Abnormally excitable behaviour)
- nervousness
- sleep disturbances
- hypertonia (increased tightness of muscle tone)
- indigestion
- joint pain or inflammation
- itching of the genitals or anus caused by thrush (candidiasis)
- discharge from the vagina caused by thrush
- inflamed vagina (vaginitis)
- chest pain in the context of allergic reactions, which may be a symptom of allergy triggered cardiac infarction (Kounis syndrome).

If you notice any side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your doctor or pharmacist.

Reporting of side effects

If you get side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. You can also report side effects to SAHPRA via the Med Safety APP (Medsafety X SAHPRA) and eReporting platform (who-umc.org) found on SAHPRA website. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q.

5. How to store CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q

Store all medicines out of reach of children.

Keep in a cool dry place at or below 25 °C.

Keep the container of CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q tightly closed. Protect from light.

The reconstituted suspension must be used within 14 days if stored in a refrigerator or within 7 days if stored at or below 25 °C.

Do not use after the expiry date stated on the carton or bottle.

Return all unused medicine to your pharmacist.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q contains

CEPHALEXIN 250 PHARMA-Q capsules

- The active substance is cefalexin monohydrate equivalent to anhydrous cefalexin 250 mg.
- The other ingredients are:

Capsule contents: Dicalcium phosphate, gelatine, magnesium stearate. *Capsule shell:* Brilliant blue, indigo carmine, titanium dioxide, gelatine.

CEPHALEXIN 500 PHARMA-Q capsules

- The active substance is cefalexin monohydrate equivalent to anhydrous cefalexin 500 mg.
- The other ingredients are:

Capsule contents: Dicalcium phosphate, gelatine, magnesium stearate. *Capsule shell:* Erythrosine, carmoisine, Ponceau 4R lake, titanium dioxide, gelatine.

CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q

- The active substance is cefalexin monohydrate equivalent to anhydrous cefalexin 125 mg/5 ml.
- The other ingredients are:

Preservative: Sodium Benzoate 0,2 % m/m.

Sucrose, xanthan gum, peppermint flavour, orange flavour, colloidal anhydrous silica, colour erythrosine-lake.

Directions for mixing: To make up 100 ml of suspension: add 67 ml of water, invert the bottle and shake until the powder is dispersed.

What CEPHALEXIN PHARMA-Q looks like and contents of the pack

CEPHALEXIN 250 PHARMA-Q capsules are blue and white, locked, hard gelatine capsules, containing an off-white coloured powder. The shells are opaque.

CEPHALEXIN 250 PHARMA-Q is supplied in blister packs of 20 and 100 capsules.

CEPHALEXIN 500 PHARMA-Q capsules are red and white, locked, hard gelatine capsules, containing an off-white coloured powder. The shells are opaque.

CEPHALEXIN 500 PHARMA-Q is supplied in blister packs of 20 and 100 capsules.

CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q powder for oral suspension is a pink coloured, free flowing powder, with a flavour of peppermint and orange.

CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q is supplied as 50 g powder in an amber glass bottle for 100 ml suspension. After reconstitution it is a pink, homogenous suspension with a flavour characteristic of peppermint and orange.

Holder of Certificate of Registration

Pharma-Q Holdings (Pty) Ltd

50 Commando Road,

Industria West 2093

Johannesburg

South Africa

info@pharmaq.co.za

Tel: 011 247 1600

This leaflet was last revised in

10 July 2026

Registration numbers

CEPHALEXIN 250 PHARMA-Q: 29/20.1.1/0124

CEPHALEXIN 500 PHARMA-Q: 29/20.1.1/0125

CEPHALEXIN DRY SYRUP PHARMA-Q: 29/20.1.1/0126

Access to the corresponding Professional Information

<https://www.pharmaq.co.za>