

# Oxycodone slow release tablets

(OxyContin®, Targin®)

## What is oxycodone?

Oxycodone slow release (Oxycontin®) is a strong pain control medication of the opioid type (related to morphine) for moderate to severe persistent pain management. It is only available with a doctor's prescription and comes in tablet form. The tablets are a slow release form of oxycodone designed to give 12 hours of pain control. They should not be confused with immediate release or short acting oxycodone preparations (Oxynorm®, Endone®).

Targin® tablets contains oxycodone hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride anhydrous. Naloxone in Targin® tablets helps to reduce the gastrointestinal side effects of opioids, including constipation.

## What is it for?

Oxycodone slow release is used to control moderate to severe persistent pain which is unresponsive to non-opioid pain relievers. It may also be used for the control of severe post-operative pain.

## How to take this medication

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and not given to other people. Treatment should be reviewed regularly by your doctor.

Tablets must not be crushed or chewed as this destroys the slow release properties of the medication. Oxycodone slow release tablets can be given either with food or on an empty stomach.

This medication interacts with grapefruit. Avoid eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit while being treated with this medication.

## Storing the medication

Store below **25°C**.

It is important to store the tablets in a secure cupboard out of reach of children.

Do not keep the medication in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places as this may make the medication less effective.



## Disposal of the medication

When your child no longer requires oxycodone, it must be returned to either your local retail pharmacy or the hospital pharmacy for disposal.

## Use of other medication

Care must be taken when using oxycodone with some other medications. These include medications that can make your child drowsy such as muscle relaxants, sleeping tablets, some antidepressants and antihistamines.

Paracetamol and ibuprofen are safe to use in combination with oxycodone and will also help manage and treat pain. Combination pain killers such as Panadeine<sup>®</sup>, Painstop<sup>®</sup> or Panadeine Forte<sup>®</sup> should not be used with oxycodone.

If you have been switched to Targin<sup>®</sup> tablets from other opioids medications and are taking laxatives, laxative treatment will need to be reassessed.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription, over the counter or herbal medicines.

## Important information

Do not suddenly stop giving this medication to your child without first checking with the doctor. Depending on the dose of oxycodone slow release and how long your child has been taking this medication, the dose may need to be gradually reduced before stopping it.

## Possible side effects

Side effects may occur while taking oxycodone slow release and may include:

- nausea, constipation or stomach upset
- drowsiness, dizziness, confusion
- dry mouth or sore throat
- itchy skin or a rash
- flushing of the face
- difficulty in passing urine.

Contact your child's doctor as soon as possible if your child becomes very drowsy, is difficult to rouse or appears to be having trouble breathing.

## Commercially available dosage forms and strengths

- **OxyContin**® tablets 10mg, 15mg, 20mg, 30mg, 40mg and 80mg
- **Targin**® tablets 2.5/1.25mg, 5/2.5mg, 10/5mg, 15/7.5mg, 20/10mg, 30/15mg, 40/20mg, 60/30mg and 80/40mg

Your hospital pharmacy will advise you if they manufacture any additional dosage forms to the above.

If you have any concerns contact your child's doctor, or the PCH Pharmacy Department.

Outpatient dispensary: 6456 0190 – select option 2

Paediatric Medicines Information Service: 6456 0190 – select option 1

**In case of overdose or poisoning contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.**



Government of **Western Australia**  
Child and Adolescent Health Service



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