

# TAKING ASPIRIN



Your doctor prescribed a baby aspirin to keep blood clots from forming in the vessels that feed the brain



Baby aspirin along with other medicines will help prevent stroke



Aspirin is usually taken once per day with food to avoid upsetting your stomach



Because aspirin prevents blood clots, people who take aspirin everyday have a slightly higher risk of bleeding or bruising



Most people will have to take aspirin for the rest of their lives

## TELL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE:



Bleeding gums



Bruising too much



Nose bleeds

## CALL YOUR DOCTOR OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM IF YOU DEVELOP:



Difficulty breathing or wheezing



Stomach pain/vomiting blood



Black or bloody stools



Severe headache with nausea

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:



Take your aspirin at the **same time everyday**

- Do not stop taking aspirin without talking to your doctor



**If you miss a dose:**

- If it is within 8 hours of usually taking it, take the missed dose and continue with taking aspirin as usual the next day
- If it is more than 8 hours, skip the dose and take the next dose at the usual time the next day
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time



**Make an appointment** with your doctor before your prescription runs out



**Baby aspirin is available over-the-counter.** If you are buying it over-the-counter and use a blister pack for other medicines, ask your pharmacist how best to have it included with all your other medicines.



**Ask about medicines that might interfere with aspirin** and lead to more bleeding.

For example, some medicine used for pain relief and available without prescription, such as ibuprofen (also known as Advil®, Motrin®), may increase your risk of bleeding with aspirin and should not be taken unless indicated by your doctor.



**Tell your pharmacist or doctor** all the medicines that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs



**Report any side effects to your doctor or pharmacist** so that they can give you tips on how to minimize them



**TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER** IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT OR ARE HAVING TROUBLE TAKING YOUR MEDICATIONS