

# MESALAMINE - oral

Dear @Name@,

Your healthcare team has discussed the following subject with you: oral mesalamine. Brand names include: Apriso, Asacol HD, Delzicol, Lialda, and Pentasa Here is some additional information. Let us know if you have any questions regarding this information.

**How it works:** This medication belongs to a class of drugs called aminosaliclates, which are also known as 5-ASAs. It helps to reduce the irritation and swelling (inflammation) in the lining of the intestines.

**How it is taken:** Taken as a pill. It is important to take the pill with plenty of water. If taken as prescribed, these medications can work as quickly as 2 to 4 weeks.

**Common side effects:** The benefit of taking this medication is that it is generally well tolerated and has not been associated with an increased risk for infection or cancer. However, in some cases, it may cause headache, nausea, abdominal pain and cramping, loss of appetite, vomiting, rash, fever, or diarrhea.

**Special considerations:** It is rare that this medication causes injury to your pancreas or kidneys. However, those with kidney problems should not use this medication. Your health care provider will be monitoring your kidney function annually.

**Points to remember:** These medications have special delayed release mechanisms and should not be crushed, chewed or opened unless instructed to do so by your provider. Before taking this medication, let your healthcare team know about other medical conditions that you may have or other medications (even over-the-counter medications or complementary therapies) you may be taking.

**Other tips:** The best way to control your disease is by taking your medication as directed. Even when you do not have any symptoms, it is very important to continue taking your medication to prevent your disease from becoming active again. Do not alter the amount of the medication or how frequently you take it on your own. If you have unpleasant side effects or you continue to have symptoms, speak to your doctor immediately.

For further information, please check out <http://www.ibdmedicationguide.org> or follow this link:

</sites/default/files/2020-03/aminosalicylates.pdf>