

What Is Lorazepam And Why Is It Prescribed?

Lorazepam is a medication that is prescribed in hospice to help relieve and reduce symptoms of anxiety, insomnia, agitation and restlessness, shortness of breath, and seizure management. This medication can be prescribed in oral liquid, tablet, or injectable forms. This medication can also be ordered as a scheduled medication (to use on a daily basis), or to use on an “as needed” basis if you have immediate or sudden symptoms.

If You Have Been Prescribed Lorazepam Oral Liquid, Please Note:

Oral liquid Lorazepam is a perishable medication and must be stored in the refrigerator. Once a bottle of oral liquid Lorazepam is opened, the medication is good for 90 days. To keep track of the bottle’s shelf life, you should use a pen or marker to label the bottle with the date that it was opened. If the seal on the top of the bottle has not been broken and the medication remains refrigerated, Lorazepam will not expire until the stamped manufacturer date on the bottle.

What Are Common Side Effects Of Lorazepam?

- **Drowsiness & Fatigue:** This side effect may occur initially and is usually temporary, subsiding a few days after your body adjusts to the medication.
- **Dizziness & Unsteadiness:** Use caution when walking. When you are changing position (lying to sitting, sitting to standing), move slowly to give your body time to adjust to the change in position. If symptoms continue or get worse, tell your nurse.
- **Some patients have a sensitivity to Lorazepam,** and this sensitivity can cause an increase in symptoms such as anxiety, restlessness, or excitement. Tell your nurse right away if you experience this side effect.

How Do I Take This Medication?

- Be sure to follow the directions given by your provider. Never use Lorazepam in larger amounts than prescribed.
- Lorazepam tablets may be crushed and mixed with a small amount of liquid if you have difficulty swallowing, or an oral liquid form can be ordered.
- A HopeWest nurse will show you how to measure oral liquid Lorazepam. The measured dose can be administered under the tongue or against the cheek for ease of swallowing.

What This Medication Will Not Do When Taken As Prescribed:

- When taking Lorazepam as prescribed, this medication will not hasten death and it will not cause addiction.
- As your disease progresses, your body may develop a tolerance to this medication and you may require an increase in your dosage to effectively treat symptoms.

Contact HopeWest at any time for assistance or if you have additional questions.
A Registered Nurse is available 24/7 including after hours, weekends, and holidays.