

Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate) for Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate) is a prescription medication taken by mouth for the treatment of your multiple sclerosis (MS). Please take Tecfidera as directed by your doctor, healthcare provider or pharmacist.

How do I take Tecfidera?

- Take Tecfidera by mouth twice per day.
- Take Tecfidera at the same time each day as directed by your doctor.
- You can take it with or without food. If you experience upset stomach after taking Tecfidera, taking it with food may help.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember on the same day.
- Store Tecfidera in its original packaging away from moisture and light.
- Your doctor may be adjusting your dose as needed.

What drugs interact with Tecfidera?

There are no known drugs that interact with Tecfidera

What side effects occur with Tecfidera?

The following are side effects that commonly occur when taking Tecfidera:

Common Side Effects:	What can I do?	When should I call the clinic?
• Flushing (redness of the skin)	 Take Tecfidera with food Take up to 325 milligrams of aspirin 30 minutes before taking Tecfidera 	• Flushing remains frequent and intolerable

Common Side Effects:	What can I do?	When should I call the clinic?
• Headache	• Use an over-the-counter pain medication such as Motrin® (ibuprofen) as directed.	• Headache does not get better within 24 hours of taking Motrin® (ibuprofen).
• Nausea	 Try taking Tecfidera with food Stay well hydrated Try to avoid an empty stomach by eating smaller, more frequent meals 	 Cannot stay hydrated (cannot drink 8-10 cups of liquid per day) Nausea is interfering with normal daily activities
• Diarrhea	 Stay well hydrated Use Imodium® (loperamide) 4 mg (milligrams) when diarrhea begins, then use 2 mg after each loose stool. Do not take more than 8 mg per day. 	 Cannot stay hydrated (cannot drink 8-10 cups of liquid per day) Diarrhea does not stop within 48 hours of treatment

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Michigan Medicine for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by Michigan Medicine and for which Michigan Medicine does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Kaleigh Fisher, PharmD Reviewers: Kathryn Bennett BSN, RN, MSCN

Patient Education by <u>Michigan Medicine</u> is licensed under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License</u>. Last Revised 06/2017