



Patient Information Sheet: Instructions for Taking 6-Mercaptopurine (6-MP)

Common brand name: Purinethol®

1. **Please read** the patient information sheet 6-mercaptopurine before you being taking your medication.
2. Take 6-mercaptopurine using the following schedule:
 - 25 mg daily for 2 weeks, then
 - 50 mg daily for 2 weeks, then
 - 75 mg daily for as long as your IBD health practitioner directs you.
3. Your IBD health practitioner will request regular blood tests to assess white blood cell counts and liver function to determine if you are tolerating the medication. **It is mandatory that you complete the required laboratory tests.** Failure to do so could result in severe and permanent tissue injury. Please complete the blood tests according to the following schedule:
 - Blood tests completed every week for 1 month
 - After, complete blood tests every month for as long as you are taking 6-mercaptopurine

Note: Your IBD health practitioner may alter the dose of your medication based upon the results of these tests.
4. It will take 12 to 16 weeks for 6-mercaptopurine to reach its **maximal effectiveness.**
5. Some viral infections can cause the white blood cell count to decrease temporarily while you are taking 6-mercaptopurine. If you have a viral infection like a cold, **please visit your family doctor** and request a white blood cell count to be completed.



If the white blood cell count is low, the 6-mercaptopurine will either be stopped or the dose lowered until the cell count returns to normal.

* Take 6-MP as directed by your physician – this may require a gradual increase in the medication.