

## PATIENT'S NAME

**MEDICATION:** azathioprine (Brand name is Imuran.)

**WHAT IT'S USED FOR:** Azathioprine is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and to prevent rejection of kidney transplants (by suppressing the immune system).

## HOW TO TAKE IT

- Take drug after meals.
- To reduce stomach upset, eat small, frequent servings of foods and drink plenty of fluids.

## WARNINGS & PRECAUTIONS!

- Before taking this drug, tell your prescriber if you have a history of herpes zoster or liver or kidney problems or if you have previously taken cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, or melphalan for rheumatoid arthritis.
- Be aware that this drug lowers your resistance to infection. Report fever, cough, breathing problems, chills, and other infection symptoms immediately.
- Notify your prescriber immediately if you develop unusual bleeding or bruising or signs of liver problems (such as yellowing of skin and eyes, clay-colored stools, itching, or dark urine).
- Avoid activities that may cause injury. Use a soft toothbrush and an electric razor to avoid gum and skin injury.
- Know that drug effects may not be obvious for up to 12 weeks for rheumatoid arthritis relief or for up to 8 weeks in immunosuppression.
- Be aware that you'll undergo regular blood testing during therapy.
- Tell your prescriber if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

## SIDE EFFECTS

This drug may cause a generally ill feeling, eye problems, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, mouth sores, inflammation of the esophagus, appetite loss, inflammation of the pancreas, serious blood disorders, anemia, yellowing of skin and eyes, serious liver problems, muscle wasting, joint and muscle pain, rash, loss of head hair, chills, fever, tumors, or serious infection. Notify your prescriber of serious or bothersome symptoms.

## INTERACTIONS

- Azathioprine may interact with other drugs, including allopurinol, blood thinners, co-trimoxazole, and some drugs used to lower blood pressure. Tell all your prescribers that you are taking it.

## STORAGE

- Store drug at a controlled room temperature of 59° to 77 °F (15° to 25° C), protected from light and moisture.

## ADDITIONAL POINTS:

Your initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_