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# Summary of Product Characteristics

## Chloramphenicol Capsules BP 250 mg

# 1. Name of the Medicinal Product: Chloramphenicol Capsules BP 250 mg

# 2. Qualitative and Quantitative Composition

Each Hard Gelatin Capsule Contains:

Chloramphenicol BP...... 250 mg

Excipients......q.s.

Approved Colour Used in Empty Gelatin Capsule Shells.

#### 3. Pharmaceutical Form

Hard Gelatin Capsule

### 4. Clinical Particulars

# 4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Typhoid fever and life-threatening infections, particularly those caused by Haemophilus influenzae where other antibiotics will not suffice

## 4.2 Posology and Method of Administration

**Posology** 

Adults and elderly

The normal dose is 50 mg/kg body weight daily in 4 divided doses. For severe infections (meningitis, septicaemia) this dose may be doubled initially, but it must be reduced as soon as clinically practical.

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of Chloramphenicol Capsules BP 250 mg have not yet been established in children.

Method of administration

For oral administration.

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#### 4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance

Chloramphenicol is contra-indicated in prophylaxis or treatment of minor infections; during active immunisation; and in porphyria patients.

Chloramphenicol is contra-indicated in patients taking drugs liable to depress bone marrow function

Chloramphenicol must not be used in breast-feeding mothers and during pregnancy or labour, due to a risk of foetal/infant damage (Gray Baby syndrome).

## 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Chloramphenicol should only be used if other treatments are ineffective and its use should always be carefully monitored.

Dose reduction and plasma level monitoring may be required in patients with hepatic or renal impairment; in the elderly; and in patients concurrently treated with interacting drugs

Periodic blood testing should be conducted during prolonged or repeated treatment. Chloramphenicol should be discontinued if a significant detrimental effect is seen.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per capsule, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

## 4.5 Interactions with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Warfarin, phenytoin, sulphonylureas and tolbutamide

Chloramphenicol prolongs the elimination, increasing the blood levels, of drugs including warfarin, phenytoin, sulphonylureas, tolbutamide.

Anticonvulsants and anticoagulants

Doses of anticonvulsants and anticoagulants may need to be adjusted if given concurrently.

### Penicillins and rifampicin

Complex effects (including reduced / increased plasma levels) requiring monitoring of chloramphenical plasma levels have been reported with co-administration of penicillins and rifampicin.

**Paracetamol** 

Concurrent administration of paracetamol should be avoided as this prolongs chloramphenicol half-life.

## Calcineurin Inhibitors (CNIs) Ciclosporin and Tacrolimus

Treatment with chloramphenicol possibly increases the plasma levels of the CNIs ciclosporin and tacrolimus.

## **Barbiturates**

The metabolism of chloramphenicol is accelerated by barbiturates, such as phenobarbitone, leading to reduced plasma concentrations. There is a possible decrease in the metabolism of phenobarbitone with concomitant chloramphenicol administration.

# **Oestrogens**

There is a small risk that chloramphenicol may reduce the contraceptive effect of oestrogens.

# **Hydroxocobalamin**

Chloramphenicol reduces the response to hydroxocobalamin.

## Drugs causing agranulocytosis

Chloramphenicol is contra-indicated in patients taking drugs liable to suppress bone marrow function. These include:

- Carbamazapine
- Sulphonamides
- Phenylbutazone
- Penicillamine
- Cytotoxic agents
- Some antipsychotics, including clozapine and particularly depot antipsychotics
- Procainamide
- Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors
- Propylthiouracil

## 4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

#### Pregnancy

Chloramphenicol crosses the placenta. Therefore chloramphenicol is contraindicated during pregnancy

# **Breast-feeding**

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AUI Prod

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Chloramphenicol is excreted in breast milk. Therefore chloramphenicol is contraindicated during breast-feeding

## **Fertility**

No human data on the effects of chloramphenicol on fertility is available.

## 4.7 Effect on ability to drive and machines

Chloramphenicol Capsules BP 250 mg have no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

### 4.8 Undesirable Effects

Adverse reactions are listed below by system organ class and frequency. Frequencies are defined as follows: very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ), common ( $\geq 1/100$  to < 1/10), uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$  to < 1/1,000), rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$ ), very rare (< 1/100,000), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

# Blood and lymphatic disorders

Rare: (i) A reversible dose related bone marrow depression.

(ii) An irreversible aplastic anaemia

*Not known:* Increase in bleeding time.

#### Immune system disorders

*Not known:* Hypersensitivity reactions including allergic skin reactions.

Eye disorders

*Not known:* Optic neuritis leading to blindness.

### Ear and labyrinth disorders

*Not known:* Ototoxicity.

### Vascular disorders

*Not known:* Acidotic cardiovascular collapse.

## Gastrointestinal disorders

Not known: Nausea, vomiting, glossitis, stomatitis, diarrhoea, enterocolitis.

### 4.9 Overdose

Where adverse effects show signs of developing administration must be stopped immediately and treatment is mainly supportive. If an allergy develops, oral antihistamines may be used. In severe overdosage e.g. Gray Baby Syndrome, there is a need for a rapid reduction in plasma levels and it

has been reported that resin haemoperfusion (XAD-4) substantially increases Chloramphenicol clearance

## 5. Pharmacological Properties

## 5.1 Pharmacodynamic Properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antibacterials for systemic use, amphenicols, ATC Code: J 01 BA 01.

Chloramphenicol is a broad-spectrum antibiotic acting by interfering with bacterial protein synthesis

The most important action on the body tissue is the adverse one of bone marrow depression. There is significant plasma protein binding and the drug is largely inactivated in the liver.

## **5.2 Pharmacokinetic Properties**

Chloramphenicol is readily and rapidly absorbed from the G.I. tract. Particle size may affect rate of absorption, but will not affect total absorption. Significant serum levels observable 30 minutes after ingestion and half life may be 2-5 hours.

Chloramphenicol is widely distributed in body tissues and fluids. It is found in Cerebro-spinal fluid. It crosses the placental barrier and diffuses into breast milk.

There is significant plasma protein binding (up to 60%).

Excretion is mainly in the urine and largely inactivated in the liver.

## 5.3 Preclinical Safety Data

None

## 6. Pharmaceutical Particulars

#### **6.1 List of Excipients**

Microcrystalline Cellulose (102DC RADE)

Silicon Dioxide

Sodium Starch Glycolate (SSG)

**Purified Talc** 

Magnesium Stearate

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Empty hard gelatin capsule

# **6.2** Incompatibilities

None known

### 6.3 Shelf Life

36 months

# **6.4 Special precautions for Storage**

Store in a dry place, below 30°C. Protect from light.

## 6.5 Nature and Contents of Container

10x10 Alu/PVC blister packed in a carton along with leaflet.

# 6.6 Special Precautions for disposal and other handling

Not applicable

# 7.0 Marketing Authorisation Holder

Sun Enterprises LTD.

BP 1952

Kigali, Rwanda

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# 8.0 Marketing Authorisation Number

## 9.0 Date of First Authorisation

### 10.0 Date of revision of the Text:

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