

[Home](#)

## 2. Epoprostenol

# Epoprostenol

**Generic name:** epoprostenol [ *EE-poe-PROST-en-ol* ]

**Brand names:** [Flolan](#), [Veletri](#)

**Dosage form:** intravenous powder for injection (0.5 mg; 1.5 mg)

**Drug class:** [Agents for pulmonary hypertension](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 26, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#)   [Side effects](#)   [Warnings](#)   [Before taking](#)   [Dosage](#)   [Interactions](#)

## What is epoprostenol?

Epoprostenol is a prostaglandin (a hormone-like substance that occurs naturally in the body). Prostaglandins help to control functions in the body such as blood pressure and muscle contractions.

Epoprostenol is used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and improve your ability to exercise.

Epoprostenol may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Epoprostenol side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction:** hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**Epoprostenol may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:**

- [shortness of breath](#) with dizziness or weakness;
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- easy bruising, unusual bleeding; or
- **symptoms of pulmonary edema**--[anxiety](#), [sweating](#), pale skin, severe shortness of breath, [wheezing](#), gasping for breath, [cough](#) with foamy mucus, chest pain, fast or uneven heart rate.

**Common side effects of epoprostenol may include:**

- flushing (warmth, redness, or tingly feeling);
- dizziness;
- [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), [diarrhea](#), stomach pain;
- trouble breathing;

- [headache](#), jaw pain;
- fast or slow heartbeats;
- joint or [muscle pain](#);
- flu-like symptoms; or
- feeling anxious or nervous.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Epoprostenol side effects](#) (more detail)

## Related/similar drugs

### Cialis

Cialis (tadalafil) increase increases blood flow to a certain area of the body and is used to treat ...

#### Reviews & ratings

8.6 / 10

[554 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Viagra

Viagra (sildenafil) is used to treat erectile dysfunction or impotence in men. Includes Viagra side ...

#### Reviews & ratings

8.5 / 10

[253 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

#### FEATURED

### Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide) for type 2 diabetes treatment, weight management, cardiovascular ...

#### Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Adcirca

Adcirca is used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension. Learn about side effects, interactions ...

### Reviews & ratings

[6 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Opsumit

Opsumit (macitentan) is used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension. Includes Opsumit side ...

### Reviews & ratings

8.2 / 10

[10 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Revatio

Revatio (sildenafil) is used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension. Includes Revatio side ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

[10 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Adempas

Adempas (riociguat) is used to treat pulmonary hypertension. Includes Adempas side effects ...

### Reviews & ratings

[4 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Warnings

You should not use epoprostenol if you have fluid in your lungs, or [heart failure](#) caused by a decrease in your heart's

ability to pump blood back into the body.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use epoprostenol if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- fluid in your lungs ([pulmonary edema](#)); or
- congestive heart failure caused by a decrease in your heart's ability to pump blood back into the body.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had breathing problems while using epoprostenol.

It is not known whether this medicine will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

It may not be safe to breast-feed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk.

## How should I use epoprostenol?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed. **You may need to use epoprostenol for many years.**

You may receive your first dose in a hospital or clinic setting to quickly treat any serious side effects. Your blood pressure and heart rate may also need to be monitored whenever your dose is changed.

Epoprostenol is injected with an infusion pump, usually through a permanent central intravenous (IV) catheter placed into a large vein such as in your chest. A healthcare provider will give your first dose and may teach you how to properly use the medication by yourself.

**Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine, which may be different for different brands of epoprostenol.** Do not use epoprostenol if you don't understand all instructions for proper use. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions.

Prepare your injection only when you are ready to give it. **Do not use if the medicine has changed colors or has particles in it.** Call your pharmacist for new medicine.

**You should not stop using epoprostenol suddenly,** even if you feel fine. Stopping suddenly may make your condition worse.

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse.

To make sure there is no interruption in your treatment, you may need to have a back-up infusion pump, replacement batteries, and extra IV infusion sets. Get your prescription refilled before you run out of medicine completely.

Store epoprostenol powder in its original package at room temperature, away from moisture, heat, and light.

**After mixing your medicine, you will need to use it within a certain number of hours or days.** This will depend on the concentration of the mixture, the diluent used, and whether you store the mixture at room temperature or in a refrigerator. **Carefully follow the mixing and storage instructions provided with your medicine.** Ask your pharmacist if you have questions.

Protect the mixed medicine from light at all times, whether it is in storage or in use.

Use a needle and syringe only once and then place them in a puncture-proof "sharps" container. Follow state or local laws about how to dispose of this container. Keep it out of the reach of children and pets.

## Epoprostenol dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose for Pulmonary Hypertension:

Initial dose: 2 ng/kg/min via continuous IV infusion and titrate up in increments of 2 ng/kg/min every 15 minutes or longer until a tolerance limit is established or further increases in infusion rate not clinically warranted

#### Comments:

- If the initial infusion rate is not tolerated, a lower dose may be used.
- If dose-limiting pharmacologic effects occur, decrease infusion rate until this drug is tolerated.

Use: For the treatment of PAH (WHO Group 1) to improve exercise capacity; studies establishing efficacy included predominately patients with New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class III to IV symptoms and etiologies of idiopathic or heritable PAH or PAH associated [connective tissue disorders](#)

**i** [Detailed Epoprostenol dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Because epoprostenol is given around the clock, you should not miss a dose if you use the medicine properly. Call your doctor right away if your epoprostenol therapy is interrupted for any reason.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What should I avoid while using epoprostenol?

**Avoid using any infusion pump that has not been approved for use by your doctor.**

## What other drugs will affect epoprostenol?

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- a diuretic or "water pill";
- blood pressure medications; or
- **a blood thinner**--[warfarin](#), [Coumadin](#), [Jantoven](#).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may affect epoprostenol, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

**i** [Epoprostenol drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does epoprostenol interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

epoprostenol

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## More about epoprostenol

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(4\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: agents for pulmonary hypertension](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

- [Epoprostenol advanced reading](#)

## Other brands

[Veletri](#), [Flolan](#)

## Professional resources

- [Epoprostenol monograph](#)
- [Epoprostenol \(FDA\)](#)

## Other brands

[Veletri](#), [Flolan](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension](#)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 3.01.

DRUG STATUS

<b>Availability</b>		
Rx	Prescription only	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Lactation</b>		
	Risk data available	
<b>CSA Schedule*</b>		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
<b>Approval History</b>		
	Drug history at FDA	▼

User Reviews & Ratings

[4 Reviews](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

- [About Drugs.com](#)
- [Advertising policy](#)
- [Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

- [Terms of use](#)
- [Editorial policy](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)

Support

- [Help center](#)
- [Sitemap](#)
- [Contact us](#)





[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

**Drugs.com** provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices  
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.