

# MONTHLY MEDICATION MINUTE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY PSYCHIATRIC  
MEDICAL CARE'S CLINICAL TEAM



## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: LAMOTRIGINE (LAMICTAL) | PART ONE

### Brand names:

- Lamictal® tablets: 25 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg
- Lamictal Blue Starter Kit® tablets: 25 mg
- Lamictal CD® chewable tablets: 2 mg, 5 mg, 25 mg
- Lamictal ODT® oral disintegrating tablets: 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg
- Lamictal® XR extended-release tablets: 25mg, 50 mg, 100
- Subvenite® tablets: 25 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg
- Subvenite Blue Starter Kit® tablets: 25 mg

### Generic name: Lamotrigine (la MOE tri jeen)

- Tablets: 25 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg
- Chewable tablets: 5 mg, 25 mg
- Oral disintegrating tablets: 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg
- Extended-release tablets: 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg, 250 mg, 300 mg

### What Is Lamotrigine and What Does It Treat?

Lamotrigine is a mood stabilizing medication approved for the treatment of bipolar disorder (also known as manic depression) and certain types of seizure disorders. It affects neural pathways in the brain. Bipolar disorder involves episodes of depression and/or mania. Lamotrigine may also be helpful when prescribed “off-label” for bipolar depression.

### Symptoms of depression include:

- Feeling sad, empty, or lonely
- Feeling worthless, guilty, hopeless, or helpless
- Loss of interest or pleasure in normal activities
- Sleeping and eating more or less than usual (for most people it is less)
- Low energy, trouble concentrating, or thoughts of death (suicidal thinking)
- Psychomotor agitation (‘nervous energy’)
- Psychomotor retardation (feeling like you are moving in slow motion)

# THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: LAMOTRIGINE (LAMICTAL) *CONTINUED*

## **Symptoms of mania include:**

- Feeling irritable or “high”
- Having increased self esteem
- Feeling like you don’t need to sleep
- Feeling the need to continue to talk
- Feeling like your thoughts are too quick (racing thoughts)
- Feeling distracted
- Getting involved in risky activities that could have negative consequences (e.g., excessive spending)

## **What Is the Most Important Information I Should Know About Lamotrigine?**

Bipolar disorder requires long-term treatment. Missing doses of lamotrigine may increase risk of a relapse in mood symptoms. In order for lamotrigine to work properly, it should be taken every day as prescribed.

## **How Long Does It Take for Lamotrigine to Work?**

It will typically take several weeks to see an improvement in symptoms. People with bipolar disorder generally need mood stabilizing treatment for life.

## **How Should I Take Lamotrigine?**

Lamotrigine is usually taken 1 or 2 times daily with or without food.

Typically, patients begin at a low dose of the medication and the dose is increased slowly over several weeks. The dose usually ranges from 25 mg to 400 mg.

## **What Happens If I Miss a Dose of Lamotrigine?**

If you miss a dose of lamotrigine, try to take it as soon as you remember, unless it is close to the time of your next dose. Discuss this with your health care provider. Do not double your dose or take more than what is prescribed. If you miss more than three days of medication, contact your prescriber because they may need to adjust your dose.