

nicorette®

icy white 2 mg and 4 mg gum
Nicotine chewing gum

What you should know about
nicorette® icy white 2 mg gum
(2 mg nicotine chewing gum)

nicorette® icy white 4 mg gum
(4 mg nicotine chewing gum)

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine. It provides useful information on how to use it safely. Keep the leaflet, you might need it again.

If you think you are having side effects, have any questions or are not sure about anything please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

1 What this medicine is for

NICORETTE® gum is a nicotine replacement therapy (NRT). It is used to relieve and/or prevent withdrawal symptoms and reduce the cravings you get when you try to stop smoking, or when cutting down the number of cigarettes you smoke. NICORETTE® gum can also be used when you are pregnant or breast-feeding to help you stop smoking, as the risks to your baby are far less than if you continue to smoke. For more information, see 'If you are pregnant or breast-feeding' section. Ideally you should always aim to stop smoking. You can use NICORETTE® gum to achieve this by using it to completely replace all your cigarettes. However NICORETTE® gum can also be used in other ways,

- if you feel unable to stop smoking completely, or wish to replace certain cigarettes and therefore it can help you to cut down the number of cigarettes you smoke,
- at those times when you can't or do not want to smoke. For example,
 - Where you don't want to smoke and avoid harm to others e.g children or family.
 - Smoke free areas e.g Pub, work, public transport e.g aeroplanes.

It may also help increase your motivation to quit. When making a quit attempt a behavioural support programme will increase your chances of success. Details of NICORETTE® ActiveStop are at the end of this leaflet.

If you smoke 20 or fewer cigarettes a day, the 2 mg nicotine gum will help relieve your cravings. If you smoke more than 20 cigarettes a day, the 4 mg nicotine gum may be more appropriate.

What does nicorette® gum do?

When you stop smoking, or cut down the number of cigarettes you smoke, your body misses the nicotine that you have been absorbing. You may experience unpleasant feelings and a strong desire to smoke (craving). This indicates that you were dependent on nicotine.

When you chew NICORETTE® gum, nicotine is released and passes into your body through the lining of your mouth. The nicotine released from the gum is sufficient to relieve the unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. It will also help to stop the craving to smoke, but NICORETTE® gum will not give you the "buzz" you get from smoking a cigarette.

The gum contains a number of ingredients which help remove dental staining, chewing NICORETTE® gum will help improve the whiteness of your teeth.

Benefits you can get from using NRT instead of smoking

For the best effect, make sure you chew nicorette gum correctly. See 'How to chew NICORETTE® gum - the NICORETTE® chewing technique'.

The benefits of stopping smoking far outweigh any potential risk from using nicotine from NRT. It is the toxins in cigarette smoke such as tar, lead, cyanide and ammonia that cause smoking related disease and death, not the nicotine.

- You may think that smoking helps relieve feelings of anxiety and stress, but it does not deal with the cause of the stress and leads to a number of serious diseases. In addition, the feeling of relaxation after smoking is temporary, with withdrawal symptoms and cravings soon returning.

Nicotine replacement therapy can help relieve nicotine withdrawal symptoms such as irritability, low mood, anxiety, restlessness and cravings when used in place of cigarettes.

- NRT may benefit smokers who want to quit, by helping to control weight gain that may be experienced when trying to stop smoking.

Use of NRT is safer than smoking tobacco but as soon as you are ready, you should aim to stop smoking completely.

2 Before using this medicine

⊗ Do not use nicorette® gum:

- If you are a child under 12 years of age.
- if you have an allergy to nicotine or any of the other ingredients.

⚠ Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist...

- if you are pregnant or breast-feeding – you may be able to use nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to help you give up smoking but

you should try to give up without it. See "If you are pregnant or breast-feeding" section.

- if you are in hospital because of heart disease (including heart attack, disorders of heart rate or rhythm, or stroke). In other heart conditions not requiring you to be in hospital, using NRT is better than continuing to smoke.
 - if you have a stomach ulcer, duodenal ulcer, inflammation of the stomach or inflammation of the oesophagus (passage between the mouth and stomach).
 - if you have liver or kidney disease.
 - if you have an overactive thyroid gland or have a *phaeochromocytoma* (a tumour of the adrenal gland that can affect blood pressure) - your doctor will have told you this.
 - if you have diabetes – monitor your blood sugar levels more often when starting to use NICORETTE® gum as you may find your insulin or medication requirements alter.
 - if you are taking other medicines such as theophylline, clozapine or ropinirole. Stopping smoking or cutting down may require the dose of these medicines to be adjusted.
- If any of these applies, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

⚠ Some of the ingredients can cause problems

NICORETTE® icy white gums contain butylated hydroxy toluene (E321), an anti-oxidant, which may irritate your mouth.

⚠ If you are pregnant or breast-feeding If you are pregnant:

- 1) Firstly, you should try to give up smoking without NRT. Stopping completely is by far the best option. The earlier and quicker you do this the better it is for you and your baby.
- 2) Secondly, if you can't manage this, you can use NRT as a safer alternative to smoking as the risks to your baby are far less than smoking, however you should talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for advice.

Products that are used intermittently, including NICORETTE® gum may be preferable to nicotine patches. However, patches may be more suitable if you have nausea or sickness. If you do use patches take them off before going to bed at night.

If you are breast-feeding:

- 1) Firstly, you should try to give up smoking without NRT.
- 2) Secondly, if you can't manage this you are best to use NRT products that are taken intermittently (not patches), however you should talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist

for advice. Breast-feed just before you use NICORETTE® gum to ensure that the baby gets the smallest amount of nicotine possible.

If you do need to use NRT to help you quit, the amount of nicotine that the baby may receive is considerably smaller and less harmful than the second-hand smoke they would inhale if you smoked. Tobacco smoke produces breathing and other problems in babies and children.

3 How and when to use this medicine

ⓘ When to use nicorette® gum

The table below contains the dosage information for NICORETTE® gum. This shows the number of gums you should be using, when and how you should take them.

Please read this information carefully and then go to the "How to stop smoking" section, which will help you decide which method to use to give up smoking.

- Use the "How to chew NICORETTE® gum - the NICORETTE® chewing technique" instructions which follow. The method of chewing is NOT the same as that for ordinary chewing gum. This way of chewing ensures that the nicotine is correctly released from the gum.
- The number of NICORETTE® gums you use each day will depend on how many cigarettes you smoked and how strong they are.
- The 2 mg gums should be used by people who smoke 20 or fewer cigarettes each day or by heavier smokers when they are cutting down the number and strength of the NICORETTE® gums they are using.
- The 4 mg gums should be used by people who smoke more than 20 cigarettes each day.

ⓘ Children aged under 12 years

Do not give this product to children under 12 years.

ⓘ Adults and Children 12 years and over

Number of cigarettes you smoke per day	Dose of Gums
20 cigarettes or fewer	One 2 mg gum as required to relieve cravings.
More than 20 cigarettes	One 4 mg gum as required to relieve cravings.
■ Use only one piece of gum at a time.	
■ Do not use more than 15 gums per day.	
■ The frequency with which you use the gums will depend on how many cigarettes you smoked and how strong they were	

1 How to chew nicorette® gum – the nicorette® chewing technique

The method of chewing NICORETTE® gum is not the same as for ordinary chewing gum. NICORETTE® gum is chewed to release nicotine then rested so that nicotine can be taken in through the lining of the mouth.

If NICORETTE® gum is chewed continuously, the nicotine is released too quickly and is swallowed. This may irritate your throat, upset your stomach or give you hiccups.

If you have false teeth you may have difficulty chewing the gum as NICORETTE® gum could stick to them and on rare occasions, damage dentures. If you experience a problem, other types of nicotine replacement therapy such as a skin patch, inhalator or microtab may be more suitable for you.

1 The nicorette® chewing technique

- 1 Chew slowly until taste becomes strong.
- 2 Rest between gum and cheek.
- 3 Chew again when the taste has faded.
 - Keep chewing like this for about half an hour. After this time the gum will have lost its strength and you should dispose of it carefully.

1 How to stop smoking

If you are able to stop smoking you should use NICORETTE® gum, when needed, in place of cigarettes. As soon as you can (this could be after a number of weeks or months) you should reduce the number of gums you use until you have stopped using them completely.

If you are unable to stop smoking, or do not feel ready to quit at this time, you should replace as many cigarettes as possible with NICORETTE® gum. There are toxins in cigarettes that can cause harm to your body. NICORETTE® gum provides a safer alternative to smoking, for both you and those around you. Reducing the number of cigarettes may also help you to become more motivated to stop smoking. As soon as you are ready you should aim to stop smoking completely.

You can also use NICORETTE® gum on those occasions when you can't or don't want to smoke e.g. Social situations such as a party, in the pub or when at work.

When making a quit attempt behavioural therapy, advice and support will normally improve the success rate. If you have quit smoking and want to stop using nicorette gum but are finding this difficult you should contact your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for advice.

▲ If you have used too many gums

If you have used more than the recommended dosage you may experience nausea (feeling sick), salivation, pain in your abdomen, diarrhoea,

sweating, headache, dizziness, hearing disturbance or weakness.

- If you do get any of these effects contact a doctor or your nearest hospital Accident and Emergency department immediately. Take this leaflet and the pack with you.

▲ If a child has used or swallowed the gums

- Contact a doctor or your nearest hospital Accident and Emergency department immediately if a child under 12 years uses, chews or swallows this medicine. Take this leaflet and the pack with you.

Nicotine ingestion by a child may result in severe poisoning.

4 Possible side-effects

Like all medicines, NICORETTE® gum can have side-effects. As many of the effects are due to nicotine, they can also occur when nicotine is obtained by smoking.

Effects related to stopping smoking (nicotine withdrawal)

You may experience unwanted effects because by stopping smoking you have reduced the amount of nicotine you are taking. You may also experience these effects if you under use NICORETTE® gum before you are ready to reduce your nicotine intake.

▲ These effects include:

- irritability or aggression
- feeling low
- anxiety
- restlessness
- poor concentration
- increased appetite or weight gain
- urges to smoke (craving)
- night time awakening or sleep disturbance
- lowering of heart rate

Effects of too much nicotine

You may also get these effects if you are not used to inhaling tobacco smoke.

▲ These effects include:

- feeling faint
- feeling sick (nausea)
- headache
- hiccupping (due to excessive swallowing of nicotine)

Side-effects of nicorette® gum

NICORETTE® gum can sometimes cause a slight irritation of the throat at the start of the treatment. It may also cause increased salivation,

Those who suffer from indigestion may suffer from heartburn or indigestion and may benefit from slower chewing and use of the 2 mg gum. The gum may occasionally stick to dentures and in rare cases damage them.

Very common side-effects:

(more than 1 in every 10 people are affected)

- headache
- sore mouth or throat
- jaw-muscle ache
- stomach discomfort
- feeling sick (nausea)
- hiccups

Common side-effects:

(less than 1 in every 10 people are affected)

- dizziness
- sickness (vomiting)

Uncommon side-effects:

(less than 1 in every 100 people are affected)

- hives (urticaria)
- redness or itching of the skin
- chest palpitations

Rare side-effects:

(less than 1 in every 1,000 people are affected)

- allergic reactions (swelling of the mouth, lips, throat and tongue, itching of the skin, swelling of skin, ulceration and inflammation of the lining of the mouth).

Very rare side-effects:

(less than 1 in 10,000 people are affected)

- abnormal beating of the heart

► If you notice these or any other unwanted effects not listed in this leaflet tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Also you can help to make sure medicines remain as safe as possible by reporting any unwanted side-effects via the internet at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard; alternatively you can call Freephone 0808 100 3352 (available between 10am – 2pm Monday to Friday) or fill in the paper form available from your local pharmacy.

► When you stop smoking you may also develop mouth ulcers. The reason why this happens is unknown.

5 Storing and disposal

- Keep NICORETTE® gum out of the reach and sight of children and animals. Nicotine in high doses can be very dangerous and sometimes fatal if taken by small children.
- Do not store NICORETTE® gum above 25°C.
- Do not use the gum after the 'Use before' date on the box or blister strip.

- Dispose of NICORETTE® gum sensibly.
- Medicines should not be disposed of via waste water or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6 Further information

What's in this medicine?

The active ingredient in NICORETTE® icy white 2 mg gum is 2 mg Nicotine.

The active ingredient in NICORETTE® icy white 4 mg gum is 4 mg Nicotine.

Other ingredients are: Chewing gum base, xylitol, peppermint oil, anhydrous sodium carbonate, acesulfame potassium, levomenthol, magnesium oxide, talc, winterfresh, hypromellose, sucralose, polysorbate 80, starch, titanium dioxide (E171) and carnauba wax. The chewing gum base contains butylated hydroxy toluene (E321), an antioxidant.

The 2 mg gum also contains sodium hydrogen carbonate

The 4 mg gum also contains quinoline yellow (E104) (yellow colour)

None of the gums contain sugar (sucrose) or animal products.

What the medicine looks like

NICORETTE® icy white 2 mg gum is a whitish square coated piece of gum.

NICORETTE® icy white 4 mg gum is a crème square coated piece of gum.

Pack types and pack sizes:

The gums are blister-packed in sheets of 6, 10 or 15 and supplied in packs of 10, 12, 15, 30, 105 and 210 pieces.

The gums are loose-filled packed in a cardboard box, wrapped in a transparent plastic film, containing 25 pieces and supplied in packs of 25, 100 (4x25) and 200 (8x25).

Not all pack types and sizes may be marketed.

Who makes nicorette® gum?

The Product Licence holder is McNeil Products Ltd, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3UG, UK.

Information about nicorette® ActiveStop

NICORETTE® ActiveStop is a personalised support programme which works with NICORETTE® to support you, with the aim of helping you give up smoking. All you need is internet access.