It is important to take amprenavir regularly, at the same time every day, and to keep to this schedule as closely as possible.

It is important to take your antiretroviral medicine properly - i.e. never forget a dose, follow the instructions on how to take the medicine, and always keep on with your treatment.

In this way, you will prevent resistance (HIV’s ability to recognize and defeat the effect of the medication) and avoid treatment failure (loss of efficacy of the antiretroviral treatment), which would result in an increased viral load and a lower number of CD4 cells, which are the ones that help your body fight infection.

It is important to take amprenavir regularly, at the same time each day, and to keep to this schedule as closely as possible.

Nearly everyone tends to relax their compliance with the treatment at some point. The key to success is motivation. Consult members of your care team so that they can explain the benefits of the treatment you are having. They can also suggest ways that will help you maintain it properly.

Never stop your treatment without first speaking to your physician.

What if I forget to take a dose?

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible and then continue with your regular schedule.

If it is nearly time for your next dose, however, just take that one at the usual time. Do not double up doses.
What are the side effects of this medication?

When you start your therapy, you may get headaches. This side effect tends to disappear with time. You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol®, Atasol®, etc.) or an anti-inflammatory agent (cream) for relief.

Other side effects of amprenavir include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. If these occur and persist, consult your pharmacist, doctor or dietitian in order to find ways to manage these side effects.

Amprenavir may cause a skin rash. Sometimes the rash is mild, in which case your doctor can treat it with an antihistamine (Benadryl®, Atarax®, etc.) or an anti-inflammatory agent (prednisone, hydrocortisone, etc.). In rare cases, however, treatment must be stopped.

If the reaction is strong (i.e., you have one or more of the following symptoms: fever, swelling, blisters, mouth ulcers, bloodshot eyes, muscle and joint aches), your doctor will stop amprenavir.

If you get a rash, contact your doctor immediately.

You may feel numbness and tingling around the mouth (peribuccal paresthesia). Inform your physician if you have this feeling.

Adverse effects related to antiretroviral therapy have recently been reported, such as diabetes, elevated cholesterol and triglyceride levels (blood fat levels), ingrowing toenails, dry skin, an accumulation of fat around the waist and, more rarely, the neck, accompanied by thinning of the legs, arms, buttocks and face. The medications responsible for these effects and the underlying mechanism are as yet unknown.

Inform your doctor and your pharmacist of any troublesome side effects.

Can I take amprenavir with my other medications?

- **Antacids such as MaaloxMD and DiovolMD**
  Amprenavir must be taken at least 1 hour (ideally 2 hours) prior to taking antacids.

- **Oral contraceptives ("the pill")**
  Amprenavir can decrease the efficacy of oral contraceptives. Additional protective measures, such as latex condoms, are recommended.

- **Vitamin E**
  Amprenavir capsules contain vitamin E. To prevent overdose, do not take vitamin E supplements while you are taking amprenavir.

- **St. John's wort**
  St. John's wort can decrease the efficacy of amprenavir and possibly allow the virus to develop resistance. Do not take St. John's wort while you are taking amprenavir.

- **Sildenafil (Viagra®)**
  Amprenavir can increase the risk of side effects associated with these drugs, so the dosages of these Sildenafil.

Amprenavir may interact with a number of drugs.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new prescription or non-prescription medication, natural product or recreational drug.

Can I drink alcohol if I’m on amprenavir?

**Soft Gelatin Capsules**
Avoid excessive or regular consumption of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits), as this may increase your risk of hepatitis or interact with some of your medications.
Prior to taking fosamprenavir, advise your physician if you have sulfa allergies, an agent which may be found in some antibiotics, diuretics (water pills), and certain diabetes medications.

However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you want to have an alcoholic drink. Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, reasonable (social) consumption should not damage your health.

**Oral Solution**
Alcohol consumption is not recommended during treatment with the oral solution of amprenavir. Alcohol may increase the risk of side effects associated with propylene glycol present in the solution.

**What if I’m pregnant or breast-feeding?**

We still do not know the effects of amprenavir in pregnant women. Talk to your doctor if you want to take amprenavir and are pregnant or want to become pregnant.

Since the virus can be transmitted through maternal milk, breast-feeding is not recommended in HIV-positive women.

**Storage**
Keep amprenavir in a dry place at room temperature (15-25°C or 59-77°F). Avoid humidity (bathrooms, etc.).

Keep out of sight and reach of children.

**General Advice**
Always keep your appointments with your doctor and the care team, so that your health can be closely monitored.

If you have any questions about your medications or need help to schedule when to take them, please contact your doctor or pharmacist, who is familiar with what you are taking.

**Contact person:** _______________________

**Telephone:** ________________________