

## Information on substitution treatment with Substitol® prolonged-release capsules *Health risks*

***Substitol® prolonged-release capsules are a medicine containing the active ingredient morphine and it is used for the oral substitution treatment of opiate dependency. It can help control your illness; however, incorrect administration may cause life-threatening situations. The capsules must not be administered to children and adolescents under 18 years of age.***

### **Mode of administration – swallowing the capsules**

Substitol® prolonged-release capsules may **only** be taken **orally**, i.e. by swallowing the capsules whole with plenty of water, taking the entire dose at once (**if possible at 24-hour intervals between instances of administration**).

If specifically instructed by the physician, the pharmacist will fill the capsule contents into a cup and administer it with water or will administer the capsule contents mixed with water.

### **Any other mode of administration is detrimental to health and life-threatening!**

Intravenous administration, i.e. injecting the dissolved capsule contents, carries the risk of:

- Overdosing with death due to respiratory arrest
- Transmission of life-threatening infectious diseases (e.g. hepatitis B and C, HIV/AIDS)
- Damage to blood vessels and tissue.

### **Dosing – what is the correct dose?**

The correct dose is that for which no withdrawal symptoms occur and the desire for drugs is suppressed. Inform your physician truthfully which dose of Substitol® suppresses your withdrawal symptoms. An excessively high dose is dangerous and will result in a sedation which is too strong. **Lying to the physician about the dose means massively endangering yourself and others!**

### **Development of tolerance – habituation**

The body will habituate itself to the substitution substance. For other persons not habituated to opioids, morphine can be fatal even in small doses and with the first instance of use! **Trying it out is life-threatening!**

### **Concomitant use of other substances – Attention: danger to life!**

**Do NOT take sleeping aids and sedatives (e.g. benzodiazepines), painkillers and medicines to treat anxiety and depression together with Substitol® prolonged-release capsules in an uncontrolled manner (i.e. not other than prescribed by the treating physician).**

Concomitant use may have **life-threatening effects!**

Drinking **alcohol** under substitution treatment increases the danger of an overdose and respiratory paralysis.

### **Passing on the substitution substance to others – a punishable offence**

Substitution substances must not be passed on to others – even if you do not intend to make a profit. **You will endanger others and be liable for prosecution!** Besides receiving punishment, there is always the risk of a severe incident leading to death.

### **Black market – danger of manipulation**

Capsules available on the black market may not be the same as the medication prescribed by your physician. Its contents may have been changed.

### **Storage**

Always keep your substitution substance in a safe place, out of the reach of others!

**Keep out of the reach of children!**

### **Suspected overdose – What to do in case of an emergency**

**When in doubt, ALWAYS get help and call emergency services – 144**

NEVER leave your friends alone to come down from their “high” if they are unresponsive, i.e. they do not respond to strongly pinching their earlobe! Also get help for friends who are unwell (e.g. shallow breathing), dizzy or unconscious! The information about what and how much you and others have consumed is very important to the emergency physician or paramedic!

**Always take Substitol® prolonged-release capsules exactly as instructed by your physician. Please ask your physician or pharmacist if you have further questions.**

