

Patient Safety Information: Fluoroquinolone Antibiotics (Ciprofloxacin, Ofloxacin and Moxifloxacin)

You have been prescribed a Fluroquinolone (Ciprofloxacin, Moxifloxacin or Ofloxacin).

Stop taking the antibiotic and seek immediate medical advice (Call 111 or your GP Surgery) if you experience any of the following:

- **Tendon pain or swelling:** Generally in the ankle or calf - if this happens, rest the painful area.
- **Pain or swelling in your joints:** Especially in the shoulders, arms or legs.
- **Abnormal pain or sensation:** Typically persistent pins and needles, tingling, numbness, or burning.
- **Muscle Weakness:** Normally in legs or arms, or difficulty walking.
- **Sensory Changes:** To vision, taste, smell, or hearing.
- **Mood and Behaviour changes:** Severe tiredness, low mood, anxiety, panic attacks, confusion, memory issues, insomnia, feeling suicidal.

Adapted from MHRA Patient Information Leaflet V2; 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency>

What do I need to know?

- You should be familiar with the signs of a possible side effect (see box above), and make sure a member of your family, household, or a carer is aware of them too.

Why have I been prescribed it?

- Fluoroquinolones are generally only prescribed when no alternative antibiotic would be suitable or as effective.
- This is guided by national and local prescribing guidance, laboratory tests to identify the bacteria that is causing your infection, and specialist advice.

Are fluoroquinolones safe?

- Yes! Most patient take fluoroquinolones safely and without any side effects.
- However, because the side effects are potentially serious, it is important that you can identify them.
- The exact chance of a side effect is unknown, but is thought to be between 1 in 10 and 1 in 10,000.

Further Information

- HIOW Patient Information: <https://tinyurl.com/4h66yu23>
- MHRA Patient Information : <https://tinyurl.com/28xunsuk>