

**PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION**
**D 34.11 Vitamins. Complementary Medicine: Health Supplement**

This unregistered medicine has not been evaluated by SAHPRA for its quality, safety or intended use. Health supplements are intended only to complement health or supplement the diet.

**SCHEDULING STATUS: S0**
**1. NAME OF THE MEDICINE**

LOCAL HEALTH B12 & FOLIC ACID sublingual tablets

**2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

Each tablet contains:

Folic Acid	500 µg
Cyanocobalamin (Vitamin B12)	25 µg

**Contains sugar:** 145 mg sorbitol per tablet.

For full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

**3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Small, oval, light yellow sublingual tablets.

**4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS**
**4.1 Therapeutic indications**

Folic acid contributes to maternal tissue growth during pregnancy, helps to form red blood cells, and helps to reduce the risk of neural tube defects when taking daily prior to becoming pregnant and during early pregnancy. Vitamin B12 contributes to the normal function of the nervous system, the psychological function, the immune system, and contributes to the reduction of tiredness and fatigue.

**4.2 Posology and method of administration**

Adults and children 14 years and older: one (1) tablet daily, place under the tongue and allow to fully dissolve.

**4.3 Contraindications**

- Hypersensitivity to any of the active substances or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- Patients who are hypersensitive or allergic to cobalamin or cobalt.
- Patients who have a suspected but undiagnosed vitamin B12 deficiency. Folic acid can mask pernicious anemia by decreasing megaloblastic anemia. This can prevent appropriate treatment with vitamin B12 and result in neurological damage, such as subacute combined degeneration of the spinal cord.
- Patients with Leber's disease or tobacco amblyopia since these optic neuropathies may degenerate further.

**4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

- Folic acid and vitamin B12 after coronary stenting may increase restenosis rates.
- Folic acid may exacerbate seizures in patients with epilepsy in doses larger than 1000 µg daily.

**4.5 Interaction with other medicines and other forms of interaction**

- Requirements for folic acid may be increased in patients taking anticonvulsants, however, the concurrent use of folic acid may antagonize the effects of anticonvulsants, which may increase the anticonvulsant dose required. Patients should be monitored closely for increased seizure activity.
- High doses of folic acid might contribute to capecitabine toxicity.
- High doses of folic acid may increase toxicity of fluorouracil.

**4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

The safety and efficacy of LOCAL HEALTH B12 & FOLIC ACID in pregnancy and lactation has not been established.

**4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive or use of machinery have been performed. Patients should exercise caution before driving or using machinery until they are reasonably certain that LOCAL HEALTH B12 & FOLIC ACID does not adversely affect their performance.

**4.8 Undesirable effects**
**Gastrointestinal**

Frequency unknown: gastrointestinal disturbances.

**Immune System**

Frequency unknown: hypersensitivity reactions.

**Reporting of suspected adverse reactions**

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorization of the medicine is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicine. Health care providers are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions to SAHPRA via the "6.04 Adverse Drug Reactions Reporting Form", found online under SAHPRA's publications: <https://www.sahpra.org.za/Publications/Index/8>.

**4.9 Overdose**

In the event of an overdose, undesirable effects as listed in 4.8 can be precipitated or be of increased severity.

Treatment of overdose is symptomatic and supportive.

**5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**
**5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

**Folic acid** contributes to maternal tissue growth during pregnancy, helps to form red blood cells, and helps to reduce the risk of neural tube defects when taking daily prior to becoming pregnant and during early pregnancy.

**Vitamin B12** contributes to the normal function of the nervous system, the psychological function, the immune system, and contributes to the reduction of tiredness and fatigue.

**5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

**Folic acid** is readily absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract, mainly from the duodenum and jejunum. After absorption, folic acid is reduced to tetrahydrofolate and then enters a methylation cycle where it is then converted to L-methylfolate. Folic acid is excreted mainly in the urine, but is also found in the faeces. Folic acid is removed by haemodialysis. Folic acid is distributed in breast milk.

**Vitamin B12** substances bind to intrinsic factor, a glycoprotein secreted by the gastric mucosa, and are actively absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract. Absorption is impaired in patients with an absence of intrinsic factor, disease or abnormality of the gut, or after gastrectomy. Absorption from the gastrointestinal tract can also occur by passive diffusion. Vitamin B12 is extensively bound to specific plasma proteins called transcobalamins. Vitamin B12 is stored in the liver, excreted in the bile, and undergoes

extensive enterohepatic recycling. A small part of vitamin B12 is excreted in urine. Vitamin B12 diffuses across the placenta and also appears in breast milk.

**6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**
**6.1 List of excipients**

Dicalcium phosphate, yellow colouring, sorbitol, magnesium stearate.

**6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable

**6.3 Shelf Life**

24 months

**6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Store at or below 25 °C.

Store in the original package in order to protect from moisture.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

**6.5 Nature and contents of container**

60 tablets in a white, PET plastic container and white screwcap lid.

**6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

No special requirements.

**7. HOLDER OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**

CJ Distribution

23 Stag Road, Glen Austin, Johannesburg, South Africa

careline@cjds.com

011 589 2729

[www.localhealth.com](http://www.localhealth.com)

**8. REGISTRATION NUMBER**

Will be allocated by SAHPRA upon registration.

**9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION**

Will be allocated by SAHPRA upon registration.

