

**PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION**

 **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM®**  
clonazepam tablets, USP

**This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers.**

**Please read this information before you start to take your medicine. Keep this leaflet until you have finished all your tablets, as you may need to read it again. If you are helping someone else to take SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM, read this leaflet before you give the first tablet.**

**This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.**

**ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**

**What the medication is used for:**

**SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** is used for the treatment of certain types of seizures.

**What it does:**

**SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** contains the active ingredient clonazepam, which belongs to a group of medicines known as benzodiazepines. **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** has anticonvulsant properties which help to manage seizures.

**When it should not be used:**

If you are allergic to the group of medicines known as benzodiazepines (examples: diazepam, chlordiazepoxide, bromazepam, or flurazepam)

- If you are allergic to the medicinal ingredient (clonazepam)
- If you are allergic to any of the other non-medicinal ingredients it contains (see ‘**What the non-medicinal ingredients are**’)
- If you suffer from lung disease.
- If you have a liver condition.
- If you have glaucoma.
- If you have myasthenia gravis.
- If you suffer from sleep apnea.

**What the medicinal ingredient is:**

Clonazepam

**What the non-medicinal ingredients are:**

Tablets 0.5 mg: FD&C Yellow # 6 Aluminum Lake, lactose, magnesium stearate, and pregelatinized starch.

Tablets 1 mg: FD&C Blue #2 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Yellow # 10 Aluminum Lake, lactose, magnesium stearate, and pregelatinized starch.

Tablets 2 mg: lactose, magnesium stearate, and pregelatinized starch.

**What dosage forms it comes in:**

**SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** is available as:

0.5 mg orange round biconvex tablet embossed C31 and 0.5 underneath on one side and a score line on the other.

1.0 mg green round biconvex tablet embossed C32 and 1 underneath on one side and a score line on the other.

2.0 mg white round biconvex tablet embossed C33 and 2 underneath on one side and a score line on the other.

The 0.5 mg, 1.0 mg and 2.0 mg tablets are available in bottles of 100 and 500 tablets.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

**Serious Warnings and Precautions**

**Taking SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM with opioid medicines can cause severe drowsiness, breathing problems, coma, and death.**

- **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** may affect your ability to be alert. Driving, operating machinery and other hazardous activities should therefore be avoided altogether or at least during the first few days of treatment. This effect of **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** may be made worse if you take alcoholic drinks. If you increase your dose or change the timings of when you take your medication this may also modify your reactions.
- You must not consume alcohol or other drugs that affect your central nervous system while taking **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** as this may provoke epileptic seizures.
- Always contact your doctor before stopping or reducing your dosage of **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM**, as suddenly stopping treatment or a large decrease in dose can cause reappearance of seizures and withdrawal symptoms.
- Benzodiazepines such as **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** may produce symptoms such as restlessness, agitation, irritability, aggressiveness, anxiety, delusion, anger, nightmares, hallucinations (see or hear things that are not there), psychoses, inappropriate behavior and other adverse behavioral effects.
- Benzodiazepines such as **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** have produced dependence (addiction) and withdrawal symptoms can occur when treatment is stopped suddenly. The risk of dependence (addiction) increases with higher doses and longer duration of treatment. Symptoms of withdrawal may include shaking, sweating, sleep disturbances, agitation/restlessness, headache, diarrhea, muscle pain, anxiety, mood changes, confusion, tension and irritability. In severe cases of withdrawal, symptoms may include numbness and tingling of the extremities, hallucinations (see or hear things that are not there), increased sensitivity to light, noise and physical contact, derealization, depersonalization, and

- hyperacusis.
- Benzodiazepines such as SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM are not recommended for the primary treatment of psychotic illness
- There have been reports of falls and fractures in benzodiazepine users. The risk is increased in those also taking other sedatives (including alcoholic beverages) and in the elderly.
- Memory loss may occur when SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM is used at therapeutic doses.
- Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant, or might become pregnant, unless advised by your doctor. Contact your doctor if you think you may be pregnant, or are intending to become pregnant. If you are pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant, ask your healthcare provider about joining the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) Pregnancy Registry by calling (1-888) 233-2334 (toll free). Women who are pregnant and planning to take an antiepileptic drug should call the pregnancy registry to enable collection of valuable data about its use in pregnancy. Information on the registry can also be found at the website: <http://www.aedpregnancyregistry.org/>
- SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM passes into breast milk. Therefore, if you are breast feeding, this medicine should be avoided. Your doctor will discuss this with you.
- A small number of people being treated with anti-epileptics such as SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM have had thoughts of harming or killing themselves. If at any time you have these thoughts, contact your doctor immediately.

**BEFORE you use SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you:**

- Have a lung, liver or kidney condition.
- Have glaucoma.
- Are taking or plan on taking ANY other drugs (including herbal preparations, drugs you purchase without prescriptions, and those not prescribed by your doctor).
- Regularly drink alcohol or use recreational drugs.
- Suffer from a form of incoordination of the muscles called spinal or cerebellar ataxia
- Have a history of depression and/or suicide attempts.
- Have rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance

**INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION**

**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines including any that you have bought from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food store without a prescription.**

Some medicines may interfere with SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM. These medicines include:

- medicines to control seizures
- narcotics and narcotic pain relievers (opioids, e.g., morphine, codeine; see **Serious Warnings and Precautions box**)

- muscle relaxants
- sleeping medication
- medicines to treat your mood, such as monoamine oxidase inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants, phenothiazines
- phenytoin, phenobarbital, carbamazepine and valproate

These medicines may be affected by SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM or may affect how well SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM works. Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM.**

You must not consume alcohol while taking SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM as its effects may worsen side effects that some patients experience with SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM.

Grapefruit juice may increase blood levels of SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM, therefore you should avoid drinking grapefruit juice while you are taking SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM.

**PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION**

**Usual dose:**

Always take the tablets exactly as your doctor tells you to. Your doctor will prescribe a suitable dose for you. The dose your doctor prescribes will depend on the nature of your illness, your reaction to the medicine, your age and body weight. The table below shows the different doses that your doctor may prescribe according to your age. Your doctor will start you on an initial low dose and gradually increase it until the desired effect is achieved.

	<b>Initial Dose</b>	<b>Maintenance Dose</b>
Adults	1.5 mg/day or less in divided doses	8-10 mg/day in divided doses
Children (up to 10 years or 30 kg)	0.01-0.03 mg/kg/day in divided doses	0.1-0.2 mg/kg/day in divided doses

The total daily dose should be taken as advised by your doctor.

Do not change the prescribed dose yourself. If you think the effect of your medicine is too weak or too strong, talk to your doctor.

Your doctor will advise you when to stop taking the medicine. Your doctor will slowly decrease the dosage as sudden discontinuation of treatment can cause the appearance of withdrawal symptoms.

**Overdose:**

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

**Missed Dose:**

Take the missed dose of **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.

**SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Like all medications **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** can cause some side effects. For most patients these side effects are likely to be minor and temporary as your body adjusts to the medicine. However, some may be serious. Consult your doctor or pharmacist as soon as you can if you do not feel well while taking **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM**.

The most common side effects are:

- Feeling drowsy or tired, especially at the start of treatment.
- Some muscle weakness and dizziness.
- Increased salivation.
- Movement control and balance issues.

Less common possible side effects are:

- Increased secretion from the lungs may occur. Children should therefore be watched carefully as this might cause difficulties in breathing and/or severe choking and coughing.
- In rare cases changes in your blood and liver may occur and your doctor will monitor for these.
- Falls and fractures: The risk is increased in those also taking other sedatives (including alcoholic beverages) and in the elderly.

Withdrawal-related side effects:

- With long-term **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** treatment development of physical and psychological dependence may occur. If treatment is stopped suddenly symptoms of withdrawal may occur, including: shaking, sweating, agitation/restlessness, sleep disturbances, anxiety (possibly extreme), headaches, muscle pain, tension, restlessness, confusion and irritability. In severe cases of withdrawal, symptoms may include numbness and tingling of the extremities, hallucinations (see or hear things that are not there), increased sensitivity to light, noise and physical contact.

**SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Symptom / Effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and seek medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Rare Unusual behavioural problems (aggression, rage) sudden anxiety or excitation; restlessness, agitation, irritability;		✓	

**SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Symptom / Effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and seek medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
hallucinations (see or hear things that are not there) or delusions; severe sleep disturbances, nightmares, inappropriate behavior			
Allergic reactions (red skin, hives, itching, swelling of the lips, face, tongue, throat, trouble breathing, wheezing, shortness of breath, skin rashes, blisters of the skin, sores or pain in the mouth or eyes)			✓ Immediately
Depression symptoms may include: difficulty sleeping, changes in weight, feelings of worthlessness, guilt, regret, helplessness or hopelessness, withdrawal from social situations, family gatherings and activities with friends, reduced libido (sex drive)		✓	
Uncommon Suicidal thoughts or actions: Thoughts, plans and actions taken for the purpose of killing or harming yourself.		✓	

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM**, contact your doctor or pharmacist.*

**HOW TO STORE IT**

- Keep **SANDOZ CLONAZEPAM** in a cool dry place stored at room temperature (15-30°C) in the original package provided by the health care professional.
- Keep this medicine out of sight and reach of children

### **Reporting Side Effects**

You can report any suspected side effects associated with use of health products to Health Canada by:

#### **3 ways to report:**

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for [information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or](#)
- Calling toll-free 1-866-234-2345.

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

### **MORE INFORMATION**

**Reminder: This medicine has been prescribed only for you. Do not give it to anybody else. If you have any further questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found by contacting the sponsor, Sandoz Canada Inc. at:

Sandoz Canada Inc.  
145, Jules-Léger  
Boucherville, Québec  
J4B 7K8  
1-800-361-3062

This leaflet was prepared by Sandoz Canada Inc.

Last revised: July 4, 2018