



# NIASPAN (niacin extended-release) tablets

## Patient Advisory Label Update®

**DRUG NAME:** NIASPAN (niacin extended-release) tablet

**MANUFACTURER:** Kos Pharmaceuticals

**INDICATIONS FOR USE:** For the treatment of primary hypercholesterolemia and mixed lipid disorders (helps to lower levels of cholesterol in the blood).

Specialty Label for Niaspan:

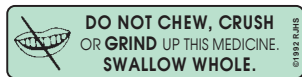


*Pharmacist:* Please affix to each Niaspan prescription you dispense. The purpose of this label is to inform the patient about a special program.

**In order to assist you with your patient counseling, we recommend the use of the following Patient Advisory Label(s) when you dispense *Niaspan*:**

DRAFT

A-31:



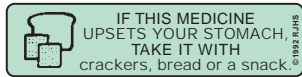
*Research:* Package insert states: "tablets should be taken whole and should not be broken, crushed, or chewed before swallowing." This tablet releases medication over a period of time.

A-56:



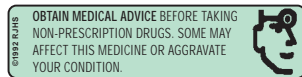
*Research:* Flushing is listed as a side effect in the package insert with an occurrence rate of greater than 50%. This label was produced to advise the patient to seek professional advice from their doctor or pharmacist if flushing does occur and is bothersome.

A-29:



*Research:* This medication should be taken with a low-fat snack (banana; crackers or slice of bread with a glass of low-fat milk) to help reduce the chance of upset stomach.

A-14:



*Research:* Concern is with the use of any prescription or over the counter products that contain additional vitamins such as niacin or related compounds such as nicotinamide. Also of concern are products that contain alcohol.

A-9:



*Research:* A patient's diet is the most important part of controlling their condition and is necessary for this medication to work properly. If the patient's physician has suggested a diet, stress the need to follow it.

**Please Note:** The Patient Advisory Label Update® and The Patient Advisor® are intended to provide the healthcare professional with easily accessible, practical drug counseling information to use when verbally communicating with a patient about a particular drug. The information printed here is designed to assist, not replace, professional judgement. The author, manufacturer or distributor make no claims regarding proper use of this information.

References available upon request

To obtain Labels or other Patient Counseling Information:



**R•J Health Systems, Inc.**

P.O. Box 290616 • Wethersfield, CT 06109 • Phone: 860-563-1223 Fax: 860-563-1650 • or on the web: [www.rjhealthsystems.com](http://www.rjhealthsystems.com)



# NIASPAN (niacin extended-release) tablets

## Patient Advisor®

**Be sure to read all this information and contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions that are not answered here.**

### **THIS MEDICATION IS USED:**

To lower the levels of cholesterol in the blood.

### **PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION:**

- Take this medication exactly as your doctor has instructed.
- Take this medicine at the same time every day, at bedtime.
- This medication should be taken with a full glass of water (4 ounces); a banana; crackers or slice of bread with a glass of low-fat milk (4 ounces) to reduce the chance of stomach upset. **DO NOT** take with hot liquids.
- This medicine should be swallowed whole. **DO NOT CHEW, CRUSH, or GRIND** up this medicine without consulting your doctor or pharmacist.

**DRAFT**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO REMEMBER:**

- This medicine may cause flushing; a redness, warmth, itching and/or tingling of the skin. Your doctor may ask you to take this at bedtime or advise you to take an uncoated aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB) or another non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (Aleve, Orudis KT) up to 30 minutes before taking this medicine. Consult your doctor or pharmacist.
- You should follow a standard cholesterol lowering diet while taking this medicine. Your diet is the most important part of controlling your condition and is necessary for this medicine to work properly.
- This medicine may cause dizziness or light-headedness. Avoid sudden changes in posture. Sit or lie down at the first sign of dizziness. **DO NOT** drive a car, operate dangerous machinery or do jobs that require you to be alert until you know how you are going to react to this medicine.
- **DO NOT** use any prescription or non-prescription drugs such as diet pills; cough, cold or allergy medicines (especially those containing alcohol) or vitamins without first talking with your doctor or pharmacist. Some may affect this medicine or aggravate your condition.
- **CALL 1-888-564-2772, to LEARN more about FLUSHING or to ENROLL in a Niaspan Patient Education Program.**

### **POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:**

Flushing, dizziness, shortness of breath, sweating, headache, back pain, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, rash.

### **MISSED DOSE INSTRUCTIONS:**

If you miss a dose, **DO NOT** take the missed dose or **DO NOT DOUBLE** the next dose. Instead, continue with your regular dosing schedule.