

- Only prescribe colchicine for acute gout if the patient has contraindications to the first-line treatments, NSAIDs or oral steroids
- Take colchicine off your favourites list or change the dose instructions to the recommendations below
- Consider prescribing a maximum of 12 colchicine tablets if the prescription is for acute gout
- Ensure patients for whom English is a second language understand the directions and risks
- Children are vulnerable to colchicine poisoning and very small doses can be fatal. Please remind people to store out of reach of children and grandchildren

Current dose recommendations for colchicine in acute gout

- Initial dosage 2 tablets (2 x 0.5 mg) followed every six hours by one tablet until relief is obtained, up to a maximum of five tablets (2.5 mg) in the first 24 hours
- In *elderly* patients, patients with *renal or hepatic impairment*, or patients *weighing less than 50 kg* use **lower doses**
- *A cumulative oral dose of 6 mg over four days* should not be exceeded
- (additional colchicine should not be administered for at least three days after a course of oral treatment)
- Patients should be told to discontinue colchicine immediately if they develop abdominal pain, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting even if the symptoms of the acute attack have not been relieved