

## PENTAMIDINE

- This medication is given by inhalation (breathe-in) through a nebulizer (a device that changes a medication from liquid to a mist) at a clinic or hospital. It may also be given as an injection into a vein.
- This medication is not funded by BC Transplant and may be purchased at a pharmacy of your choice.

### What does the medication look like?



### What is this medication for?

Pentamidine is used to prevent or treat a particular type of pneumonia (lung infection) known as PCP or PJP. This type of infection is more common in patients who have a weakened immune system (for example after an organ transplant). Nebulized (vaporized) pentamidine is used when a person has a sulfa allergy or has experienced side effects to sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim.

### How should I take this medication?

Pentamidine is given by nebulizer <b>once a month</b>	Your medication times: _____
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- Pentamidine is given in the hospital setting, in a designated room within the Pulmonary Function Lab.
- Pentamidine inhalation is given once monthly. How long you need this medication will be determined by your doctor.

### What are some possible side effects of this medication?

<i>Side Effect</i>	<i>Management</i>
<b><i>Chest pain, coughing or wheezing</i></b>	You will be given another medication (salbutamol, Ventolin®) to breathe in before the pentamidine to reduce this.
<b><i>Decreased appetite</i></b>	This is temporary, and wears off after a couple of days.
<b><i>Dizziness/tiredness/fatigue</i></b>	Breathe slowly; stop pentamidine if needed.
<b><i>Cough and sore throat</i></b>	Use throat lozenges or cough syrup if symptoms are very bothersome.
<b><i>Bitter or metallic taste in the mouth</i></b>	Rinse mouth immediately after the pentamidine treatment. If it occurs during treatment, you may stop the inhalation and take a drink of water.

