



Cefazolin Patient Education Sheet

Pronunciation (sef A zoe lin)

Brand Name – Ancef, Kefzol

What is this drug used for?

- It is an antibiotic that works by fighting bacteria in the body
- It is used to treat serious bacterial infections of the skin, abdomen and joints

How is this medication administered?

- Cefazolin is administered intravenously as a 30 minute infusion

What are the possible side effects I may experience?

- Many people have no side effects or only very mild side effects
- Most common side effect include:
 - Nausea
 - Diarrhea
 - Loss of appetite
- Call your doctor at once if you have serious side effects such as:
 - Signs of an allergic reaction such as: hives, difficulty breathing, swelling of your face, lips, throat or tongue
 - Unexplained bruising or bleeding
 - Fever/chills
 - Sore throat
 - Feeling very tired or weak
 - Seizures
 - Not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is passed
 - It is common to have diarrhea with this drug. Rarely, a very bad form of diarrhea called C. Diff can occur. Call your doctor right away if you have stomach pain or cramps, very loose or watery stools, or bloody stools. Do not try to treat loose stools without first checking with your doctor.
 - A very bad skin reaction (Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis). Get medical help right away if you have symptoms like red, swollen blistered or peeling skin (with or without fever), red or irritated eyes, or sores in your mouth, throat, nose or eyes

What are some things I need to know or do while I am taking cefazolin?

- Have your blood checked weekly as ordered
- Infuse your doses at the same time each day

How should I store this medication?

- Refrigerate
- Do not freeze
- Solution is clear or yellow

*** This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medication***