

# Information Sheet

Web: [www.ms-society.ie](http://www.ms-society.ie) | Email: [info@ms-society.ie](mailto:info@ms-society.ie) | Information Line: 1850 233 233

## Fampridine PR (Ampyra)

*This information sheet refers to a product that is currently still in trials and not licensed for use in Ireland.*

### What is Fampridine PR?

Fampridine PR is a slow-released oral tablet being developed for people with MS to improve walking and speed ability. The tablet contains a sustained release formula of 4-Aminopyridine, which blocks tiny pores, or potassium channels, on the surface of nerve fibres. This blocking may improve the conduction of nerve signals in nerve fibres whose insulating myelin coating has been damaged by MS. It is the first therapy approved to treat a symptom of MS.

Taking Fampridine PR does not change the underlying course of the disease or limit the damage caused by the disease. There are many medications taken by people with MS to manage specific symptoms of MS such as spasticity, fatigue or depression. Until now there has been no treatment available for MS-related difficulty walking.

### How is Fampridine PR administered?

Fampridine PR will be administered orally by tablet twice a day, 12 hours apart.

### Who might benefit from taking Fampridine PR?

There is no way of knowing in advance whether any particular individual with MS might benefit from taking Fampridine PR. In clinical trials, a proportion of people with all types of MS were found to benefit in terms of walking speed. This proportion ranged from 35% to 43% of those who took the drug in the two phase-three trials.

### **Who should not take Fampridine PR?**

You should not take Fampridine PR if you have ever had a seizure or have certain types of kidney problems.

### **What should I tell my doctor before taking Fampridine PR?**

Before you begin taking Fampridine PR you should tell your doctor if you:

- Have any other medical conditions;
- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. (It is not known if it will affect your unborn child. You and your doctor should decide whether or not to take it whilst you are pregnant.)
- Are breastfeeding or plan to breast feed. (It is not known if it is passed into breast milk.)

### **What are the most common side effects of Fampridine PR?**

The most common side effects of Fampridine PR are:

- Urinary tract infection
- Insomnia
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Nausea
- Back pain
- Problems with balance
- Burning, tickling or itching of skin
- Irritation in your nose or throat

### **When will Fampridine PR be available in Ireland?**

As of yet, Fampridine PR is not currently licensed in Europe including the UK and Ireland. A licence application was submitted to the EMA on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The European brand name is still to be approved. The US licence was approved on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010, and is marketed under the brand name Ampyra.

Biogen Idec is currently working on a process, so Fampridine PR may be available on a compassionate basis in the UK and Ireland. The firm anticipates this process will be in place by the end of the year.

---

**Source:**

This information has been taken from [www.biogenidec.com](http://www.biogenidec.com).

**Further Reading:**

[www.msactivesource.ie](http://www.msactivesource.ie)

[www.msdecision.org.uk](http://www.msdecision.org.uk)

**Disclaimer:**

MS Ireland provides information to the MS Community on an array of topics associated with MS. This information is for reference purposes only and medical advice should always be sought before any treatment or intervention is tried.