What is most important to remember?

- Take the antibiotic at the same times each day, at evenly spaced intervals.
- Take until you finish the medicine, even if you are feeling better
- Do not start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs or herbal remedies without talking to your doctor
- Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists that you are using cephalexin (Keflex®)
- Contact your prescriber immediately if you experience a rash, itching, hives, shortness of breath, or swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat or if your condition persists or worsens
- This medicine will not treat a viral infection such as the common cold or flu

If you have questions:

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for more information about cephalexin (Keflex®).

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Cephalexin (Keflex®): Important Patient Information

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What does cephalexin (Keflex®) do?

- It is used to treat certain bacterial infections
- It is a cephalosporin antibiotic

How should cephalexin (Keflex®) be used?

- Use this medicine as directed by your doctor
- Take at the same time each day. To gain the most benefit, do not miss doses of this medicine
- Take until you finish the medicine, even if you are feeling better
- Take with or without food. Take with food if it causes an upset stomach

Who should know I am taking cephalexin (Keflex®)?

- Keep a list of all your medicines (prescription, natural products, supplements, vitamins, over-the-counter) and give it to your healthcare provider (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, or physician assistant)

What side effects could occur with cephalexin (Keflex®)?

- Headache, dizziness, joint pain
- Upset stomach, diarrhea, or throwing up—tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are very bad or do not go away
- 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
- For women, vaginal yeast infection. Report itching or discharge to your doctor

What should I do if I miss a dose of cephalexin (Keflex®)?

- Take the missed dose as soon as you think about it
- If it is almost time for your next dose skip the missed dose and go back to your normal dose time
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses

If you have any of the following side effects, call your doctor or visit the emergency room immediately:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in chest or throat; trouble breathing or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat
- Any bruising or bleeding
- Mood changes, hallucinations
- Seizures

What are some things that I need to be aware of when taking cephalexin (Keflex®)?

- Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to cephalexin, any penicillin, or if you have any other allergies
- If you are taking a blood thinner, you may need to have your blood work checked more frequently while taking this medicine. Talk with your doctor
- Birth control pills may not work as well to prevent pregnancy. Use some other kind of birth control like condoms while taking this medicine. Talk with your doctor
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are currently breastfeeding
- Store at room temperature in a cool, dry place. Do not keep in the bathroom
- Keep out of reach of children and pets

Are there any interactions with other drugs that I need to worry about?

- There are many drug interactions that may increase your risk of side effects
- Do not start new prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, or herbal and dietary supplements without telling your doctor
- Be sure to ask your doctor or pharmacist if you should use additional reliable birth control methods while using this antibiotic