

## PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

### Pr<sub>r</sub> pms-FINGOLIMOD Fingolimod Capsules (as fingolimod hydrochloride)

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when pms-FINGOLIMOD was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about pms-FINGOLIMOD. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

#### ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

##### What the medication is used for:

pms-FINGOLIMOD is used to treat adult patients with the relapsing and remitting form of multiple sclerosis (MS). pms-FINGOLIMOD is generally recommended for MS patients who have not responded well to, or cannot tolerate one or more of the other therapies for multiple sclerosis.

##### What it does:

pms-FINGOLIMOD does not cure MS, but it helps to reduce the number of attacks (relapses) that occur, reduce inflammation in the brain (brain lesions identified seen on MRI scans), and slow the build-up of physical problems due to MS (disability progression).

pms-FINGOLIMOD changes how the body's immune system works by decreasing the ability of lymphocytes to move freely within the body. This lowers the number of lymphocytes in the blood and prevents them from reaching the brain and spinal cord. This may reduce the inflammation and nerve damage that happens in MS.

##### When it should not be used:

You should not take pms-FINGOLIMOD if you:

- are allergic (hypersensitive) to fingolimod or to any of the other ingredients listed in this leaflet.
- immune system is weakened (immunocompromised) due to disease (immunodeficiency syndrome) or medicines or treatments that suppress the immune system, such as medicines used to treat cancer or bone marrow transplantation.
- have a severe active infection or an active chronic infection such as hepatitis or tuberculosis.
- have an active cancer (except for a type of skin cancer called basal cell carcinoma).
- have severe liver disease.
- **have had a heart attack, angina, stroke or warning of a stroke or certain types of heart failure in the last 6 months.**
- **have certain types of irregular or abnormal heartbeat** (arrhythmia), or your electrocardiogram (ECG) shows prolonged QT interval before starting pms-FINGOLIMOD.
- **are taking or have recently taken medicine for irregular heartbeat** such as quinidine, disopyramide, amiodarone or

sotalol (due to a possible added effect on irregular heartbeat).

- **are pregnant, suspect you may be pregnant or plan to get pregnant.**
- **are of childbearing age not using effective methods of birth control.**
- **are of childbearing age, until it is confirmed with a pregnancy test that you are not pregnant. This is done just before you begin treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD.**

##### What the medicinal ingredient is:

Fingolimod Hydrochloride

##### What the non-medicinal ingredients are:

Ammonium Hydroxide, Black Iron Oxide, Dibasic Calcium Phosphate Anhydrous, Gelatin, Magnesium Stearate, Propylene Glycol, Shellac Glaze, Titanium Dioxide, and Yellow Iron Oxide.

##### What dosage forms it comes in:

Capsules: 0.5 mg of fingolimod (as fingolimod hydrochloride)

#### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

##### **Chickenpox Vaccine**

**Patients who have not had chickenpox or have not had the chickenpox vaccine are at risk of having a serious and life-threatening chickenpox infection during treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD. There have been very rare fatal cases of chickenpox infection reported in patients treated with fingolimod hydrochloride, who also received a relatively long course of corticosteroid therapy.**

**If you are not protected against chickenpox, your doctor may recommend that you receive the chickenpox vaccine 1 month before starting treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD.**

**BEFORE you use pms-FINGOLIMOD talk to your doctor or pharmacist if:**

- you have heart problems, such as **high blood pressure or severe untreated sleep apnea.**
- **you are taking medicines for an irregular heartbeat** such as quinidine, disopyramide, amiodarone or sotalol (see "When it should not be used").
- **you suffer from slow heart rate, you are already taking other medicines that slow your heart rate, or you have a history of sudden loss of consciousness (fainting).**
- you have a weakened immune system (due to a disease or medicines that suppress the immune system).
- you have been vaccinated within 1 month before you start taking pms-FINGOLIMOD or you plan to receive a vaccine. You should not receive certain types of vaccines (called "live attenuated vaccines") during and for up to 2 months after treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD.
- you have never had chickenpox or have not been vaccinated for chickenpox.

- you have or have had visual disturbances or other signs of swelling in the central vision area at the back of the eye (a condition known as macular edema), inflammation or infection of the eye (uveitis).
- you have diabetes. Diabetes increases the risk of having macular edema during pms-FINGOLIMOD treatment.
- you have liver problems. pms-FINGOLIMOD may affect your liver function.
- you have low or high blood pressure. pms-FINGOLIMOD causes a mild increase in blood pressure.
- you have high cholesterol or triglyceride levels. pms-FINGOLIMOD may increase blood levels of cholesterol and triglycerides.
- you have kidney problems.
- you have breathing problems. pms-FINGOLIMOD has a slight effect on lung function.
- you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are trying to become pregnant.
- you are breast-feeding.

Your doctor will consider **whether you need to have a vaccination against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)** before starting treatment. If you are a female, your doctor will also recommend HPV screening. HPV infection, including papilloma, dysplasia, warts and HPV-related cancer, has been reported in patients treated with fingolimod.

**Monitoring:** Before you start treatment and periodically during treatment, your doctor may want you to undergo several tests to help monitor side-effects of pms-FINGOLIMOD. These will include:

blood tests (to check your white blood cell counts, liver function), eye examination (to monitor for macular edema), checks of your heart rhythm and blood pressure, and possibly lung function.

#### **Slow heart rate and irregular heart beat**

Fingolimod hydrochloride causes the heart rate to slow down, especially during the first month of treatment. Fingolimod hydrochloride can also cause an irregular heartbeat, especially after the first dose. Irregular heartbeat usually returns to normal in less than one day. Slow heart rate usually returns to normal within one month. These heart rhythm disturbances may be more likely in patients with risk factors, such as heart disease, or when certain interacting drugs are taken. In general, people more than 65 years of age are at higher risk.

If you have an irregular or abnormal heartbeat or a history of sudden loss of consciousness (fainting), your condition may worsen temporarily with pms-FINGOLIMOD. The same applies if you have a slow heart rate or if you are taking medicines which slow the heartbeat.

If you experience any symptoms of a possible heart rhythm disturbance, such as dizziness, palpitations (sensation of rapid, pounding, or irregular heart beat), fainting, or seizures, at any time during treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD, you should seek immediate medical attention.

**Because fingolimod hydrochloride has side effects on the heart, you will be required to have an electrocardiogram (ECG) to check the health of your heart before you start pms-FINGOLIMOD. Your doctor will ask you to stay in the clinic or office for at least 6 hours after taking the first dose of pms-FINGOLIMOD, so your heart rate and blood pressure can be checked each hour and appropriate measures can be taken if heart-related side effects occur at the start of treatment. A second ECG will be done 6 hours after taking the first dose.** Depending on the results of the ECG, blood pressure checks and how you are feeling, you may need to be observed for longer, possibly overnight, in a health care facility. The same observation process may apply if you are starting treatment again after a break from pms-FINGOLIMOD therapy.

#### **Infections**

The effects of pms-FINGOLIMOD on your body's immune system may reduce your body's ability to fight infections and you may get infections more easily while you are taking pms-FINGOLIMOD (and for up to 2 months after you stop taking it). If you have an infection, tell your doctor before you take pms-FINGOLIMOD. Any infection that you already have may get worse. Infections could be serious and sometimes life-threatening. Before you start taking pms-FINGOLIMOD, your doctor will confirm whether you have enough white blood cells in your blood. **During your treatment** with pms-FINGOLIMOD, if you think you have an infection, have fever, feel like you have the flu, or have a headache with a stiff neck, sensitivity to light, nausea, and/or confusion (these may be caused by a serious fungal infection and may be symptoms of cryptococcal meningitis), contact your doctor right away. If you believe your MS is getting worse (e.g., weakness or visual changes) or if you notice any new or unusual symptoms, talk to your doctor as soon as possible, because these may be the symptoms of a rare brain disorder caused by infection and called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). Your doctor will consider performing an MRI scan to evaluate this condition and will decide whether you need to stop taking pms-FINGOLIMOD.

The use of other medications and treatments that suppress or change how the immune system works is not recommended during treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD because the risk of infections can be increased further.

#### **Macular edema**

A problem with your vision, called macular edema, can occur during treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD. Macular edema can cause some of the same vision symptoms as an MS attack (optic neuritis), but you also may not notice any symptoms. Macular edema usually starts in the first 3 to 4 months after you start taking pms-FINGOLIMOD. Your doctor should therefore test your vision 3 to 4 months after you start taking pms-FINGOLIMOD, or any time you notice vision changes during treatment.

Your risk of macular edema may be higher if you have diabetes, or have had an inflammation of your eye called uveitis. If you

have or have had visual disturbances or other signs of swelling in the central vision area (macula) at the back of the eye, uveitis or diabetes, your doctor should test your vision before you start taking pms-FINGOLIMOD.

### Seizures

Some patients have had seizures while taking fingolimod hydrochloride. It is not known whether the seizures were related to the effects of their MS, fingolimod hydrochloride, or to a combination of both. If you have a seizure while taking pms-FINGOLIMOD, you should call your doctor right away.

### Depression and suicidal ideation

Are known to occur in the MS population. Patients, families and caregivers of patients being treated with pms-FINGOLIMOD should watch for these symptoms. Contact your health care professional **right away** if any of these symptoms occur.

### Other warnings you should know about:

The effects of pms-FINGOLIMOD on the body's immune system may increase the risk of developing lymphoma and other cancers such as skin cancer. Lymphoma and skin cancer, mostly basal cell carcinoma, have been reported in patients treated with fingolimod hydrochloride.

If you already have moles or open sores before starting treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD, pay attention for changes in the size, shape or color of moles or the healing of open sores (not healing within weeks) after you start treatment. These may be signs of skin cancer that you should talk to your doctor about.

A type of skin cancer called basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and other cutaneous neoplasms such as malignant melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma, Kaposi's sarcoma and Merkel cell carcinoma have been reported in MS patients treated with fingolimod hydrochloride. During treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD you should check your skin regularly for unusual changes. Symptoms of BCC may include skin nodules (e.g., shiny pearly nodules), patches or open sores that do not heal within weeks. Symptoms of other skin cancers may include abnormal growth or changes of skin, such as unusual moles, that may change in color, shape or size over time. Your doctor will also do regular skin examinations during your treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD. Long-term exposure to the sun and a weak immune system can affect the risk of developing Merkel cell carcinoma. You should limit your exposure to the sun and UV rays by: wearing appropriate protective clothing and regularly applying sunscreen with a high degree of UV protection.

After pms-FINGOLIMOD treatment is stopped, symptoms of MS can return and may become worse compared to before or during treatment. Tell your doctor if you have worsening of MS symptoms after stopping pms-FINGOLIMOD.

A condition with unusually large brain lesions associated with MS relapse has been rarely reported in patients treated with fingolimod (a condition called tumefactive lesions). In case of severe relapse, your doctor will consider performing an MRI

scan to evaluate this condition and will decide whether you need to stop taking pms-FINGOLIMOD.

### Older people (over 65 years old)

Fingolimod hydrochloride was studied in very few MS patients over 65 years old. Treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD requires extra caution in older patients due to the greater likelihood of having other medical problems in addition to MS.

### Children and adolescents (under 18 years old)

pms-FINGOLIMOD should not be used in children and adolescents.

### Pregnancy and breast-feeding

pms-FINGOLIMOD can harm the unborn baby if used during pregnancy. If you are a female who could become pregnant or if you are a female planning to become pregnant, before you start treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD, your doctor:

- will tell you about the risk to an unborn baby;
  - will ask you to do a pregnancy test in order to ensure that you are not pregnant;
- and
- you must use effective contraception while taking pms-FINGOLIMOD and for two months after you stop taking it.

You must avoid becoming pregnant while taking pms-FINGOLIMOD and in the two months after you stop taking it because of the risk of harming your unborn child. Talk with your doctor about the associated risk and about reliable methods of birth control that you must use during treatment and for 2 months after you stop treatment.

If you do become pregnant while taking pms-FINGOLIMOD, tell your doctor right away. You and your doctor will decide what is best for you and your baby. If a patient becomes pregnant while taking pms-FINGOLIMOD, physicians and patients are encouraged to report any pregnancy outcomes by calling 1-888-550-6060.

You should not breast-feed while you are taking pms-FINGOLIMOD. pms-FINGOLIMOD can pass into breast milk and there is a risk of serious side effects for a breast-fed baby.

### Driving and using machines

After the first dose of pms-FINGOLIMOD, you will need to stay at the doctor's office or clinic for at least 6 hours to have your heart rate checked. Your ability to drive and use machines may be affected during and potentially after this period.

## INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken any of the following medicines:

- **Medicines for heart problems or high blood pressure.**

- **Medicines for an irregular heartbeat** such as, quinidine, disopyramide, amiodarone or sotalol. (see “When it should not be used”)
- **Medicines that slow down heartbeat** such as atenolol or metoprolol (called beta-blockers), such as verapamil, or diltiazem (called calcium channel blockers) or digoxin.
- **Medicines that suppress or modulate the immune system including other medicines used to treat MS** (beta-interferon, glatiramer acetate, natalizumab, mitoxantrone, dimethyl fumarate, teriflunomide, alemtuzumab or corticosteroids) **or medicines used to treat cancer.** Pms-FINGOLIMOD should not be started while you are on these medications. pms-FINGOLIMOD can usually be started immediately after stopping beta interferon, glatiramer acetate or dimethyl fumarate provided that immune effects from these therapies have resolved. If switching to pms-FINGOLIMOD from other disease modifying treatments for MS (listed above), your health care provider may want to wait for several months to reduce the possible added effect on the immune system and potential for increased risk of serious infections. However, starting treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD after alemtuzumab is not recommended.

When corticosteroids were used for a few days to treat relapses in the multiple sclerosis studies with pms-FINGOLIMOD this did not result in increased infections. However, because there is the potential for increased risk of infection, extra caution is recommended if corticosteroids are used.

- **Vaccines.** If you need to receive a vaccine, seek your doctor’s advice first. During and for up to 2 months after stopping treatment with pms-FINGOLIMOD, administration of some vaccines containing live virus (live attenuated vaccines) may result in the infection that the vaccination should prevent, while other vaccines may not work well enough to protect you.
- **Antifungal drugs** (such as ketoconazole).
- **Antibiotics** (such as erythromycin).
- **Drugs to treat HIV infection.**
- **Asthma drugs.**

### PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Always take pms-FINGOLIMOD exactly as your doctor has told you.

#### Usual adult dose:

The dose is one capsule per day (0.5 mg of fingolimod) taken orally (by mouth).

Take pms-FINGOLIMOD once a day, at the same time each day with half a glass of water. pms-FINGOLIMOD can be taken with or without food.

Do not stop taking pms-FINGOLIMOD or change your dose without talking with your doctor.

pms-FINGOLIMOD will stay in your body for up to 2 months after you stop taking it, the side effects described in this leaflet may still occur during that time.

#### Overdose:

If you think you have taken too much pms-FINGOLIMOD, contact your healthcare professional, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

#### Missed Dose:

If you forget a dose, take the next dose as planned. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you missed a dose on one day during the first 2 weeks, or if you stop taking pms-FINGOLIMOD for more than 7 days during weeks 3 and 4 of treatment, contact your doctor right away. Your doctor may decide to observe you at the time you take the next dose.

If you start pms-FINGOLIMOD again after stopping for 2 weeks or more, you will start taking pms-FINGOLIMOD again in your doctor’s office or clinic. Do not restart pms-FINGOLIMOD after stopping it for more than two weeks without seeking advice from your doctor.

### SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

As with all medicines, patients treated with pms-FINGOLIMOD may experience side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**Very common side effects** (affect more than 1 in 10 patients):

- Flu virus infection
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Back pain
- Cough

**Common side effects** (affect between 1 and 10 in every 100 patients):

- Sinusitis
- Fungal infections affecting skin, nails or hair
- Dizziness
- Migraine
- Weakness
- Mild increase in blood pressure
- Skin rash
- Hair loss
- Itchy skin
- Weight loss
- Blurred vision
- Breathlessness
- Tingling or numbness
- Depression
- Eye pain

**Uncommon side effects** (affect between 1 and 10 in every 1,000 patients):

- Depressed mood.

**Frequency not known:**

- Nausea.
- Muscle pain.
- Joint pain.

If any of these side effects affects you severely, tell your doctor.

If you notice any other side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your doctor or pharmacist.

| <b>SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM</b>   |                                      |              |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Symptom / effect   | Talk to your healthcare professional |              | Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help |
|  | Only if severe                       | In all cases |   |
| <b>Common</b>  |                                      |              |   |
| Symptoms of bronchitis such as cough with phlegm, chest pain, fever  |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Symptoms of gastroenteritis such as vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, fever  |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Symptoms of shingles (or herpes zoster) such as blisters, burning, itching or pain of the skin, typically on the upper body or the face. Other symptoms may be fever followed by numbness, itching or red patches with severe pain |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Symptoms of slow heartbeat (bradycardia) such as feeling dizzy, tired, awareness of own heartbeat, decrease in blood pressure  |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Symptoms of a type of skin cancer called basal cell carcinoma (BCC), which often appears as a pearly nodule, though it can also take other forms   |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Symptoms of low level of white blood cells such as fever, sore throat or mouth ulcers due to infections  |                                      | ✓            |   |

| <b>SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM</b>   |                                      |              |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Symptom / effect   | Talk to your healthcare professional |              | Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help |
|  | Only if severe                       | In all cases |   |
| <b>Uncommon</b>  |                                      |              |   |
| Symptoms of pneumonia such as fever, cough, difficulty breathing   |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Symptoms of macular edema (swelling in the central vision area of the retina at the back of the eye) such as shadows or blind spot in the center of the vision, blurred vision, problems seeing colors or fine details                 |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Liver disorder (symptoms include feeling nauseous or throwing up, loss of appetite, swelling and/or pain in the abdomen, feeling tired, itching, yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine)  |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Trouble breathing  |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Melanoma, a type of skin cancer that usually develops from an unusual mole. New moles or moles that may change in size, shape, height or colour over time as well, may be signs of melanoma. The moles may itch, bleed or form a sore. |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Convulsions, fits  |                                      |              | ✓   |
| <b>Rare</b>  |                                      |              |   |
| Stroke (symptoms include weakness and/or loss of feeling of limbs or face, difficulty speaking, clumsiness, vision loss)   |                                      |              | ✓   |
| Peripheral artery disease (symptoms include cold, painful, discolored limb, fingers or toes)   |                                      |              | ✓   |

| SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM  |                                      |              |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Symptom / effect   | Talk to your healthcare professional |              | Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help |
|  | Only if severe                       | In all cases |   |
| Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) (symptoms may include sudden severe headache, feeling nauseous or throwing up, confusion, drowsiness, personality change, paralysis, abnormal speech, convulsions and vision changes)  |                                      |              | ✓   |
| Cancer of the lymphatic system (lymphoma) (symptoms may include painless swelling of lymph node, swollen tonsils, fever, chills, night sweats, feeling tired, itching, unexplained weight loss, loss of appetite, persistent coughing/difficulty breathing or not being able to breathe, and headache) |                                      | ✓            |   |
| <b>Very Rare</b>   |                                      |              |   |
| Tumour related to infection with human herpes virus 8 called Kaposi's sarcoma (symptoms may include purple, red or brown blotches or tumours, usually on the skin of the legs or face)   |                                      | ✓            |   |
| <b>Isolated Cases</b>  |                                      |              |   |
| Temporary but serious abnormal heart beat  |                                      |              | ✓   |
| <b>Frequency Not Known</b>   |                                      |              |   |
| Cryptococcal infections (a type of fungal infection), including meningitis with symptoms such as headache with a stiff neck, sensitivity to light, feeling nauseous and/or confusion   |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), a rare brain infection (symptoms may include weakness on one side of your body, problems thinking, or vision changes)  |                                      | ✓            |   |

| SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM  |                                      |              |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Symptom / effect   | Talk to your healthcare professional |              | Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help |
|  | Only if severe                       | In all cases |   |
| Return of disease activity after stopping treatment (worsening of symptoms of MS compared to before and during treatment)  |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection, including papilloma, dysplasia, warts and HPV-related cancer  |                                      | ✓            |   |
| Allergic reactions, including symptoms of rash or itchy hives, swelling of lips, tongue or face, which are more likely to occur on the day you start pms-FINGOLIMOD treatment. |                                      | ✓            |   |

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking pms-FINGOLIMOD, contact your doctor or pharmacist.*

**HOW TO STORE IT**

- Do not use pms-FINGOLIMOD after the expiry date shown on the box.
- Store at 15 to 25°C and protect from moisture.
- Store in the original package, protect from moisture.
- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

**Reporting Side Effects**

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

**MORE INFORMATION**

If you want more information about pms-FINGOLIMOD:

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph, that is prepared for health professionals and includes this Consumer Information by visiting the Health Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada.html>); the manufacturer's website ([www.pharmascience.com](http://www.pharmascience.com)), or by calling the sponsor, Pharmascience Inc. at, 1-888-550-6060.

If a patient becomes pregnant while taking pms-FINGOLIMOD, physicians and patients are encouraged to report any pregnancy outcomes by calling 1-888-550-6060.

This leaflet was prepared by:

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