

You (or your loved one) are taking a medication called prochlorperazine (brand name Compazine®). Prochlorperazine is a medication that can help stop or prevent nausea and vomiting. It can also be used to help with agitation.

Prochlorperazine usually comes as a tablet that can be swallowed whole or crushed. Prochlorperazine also comes as a suppository, which is inserted into the rectum. This medication may be included in a “kit” with other medications to treat new or worsening symptoms. Make sure to follow the hospice team’s instructions carefully when using prochlorperazine.

## **Possible side effects of prochlorperazine:**

Seek emergency medical help if you (or your loved one) have any of the following signs of a severe allergic reaction:

- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat
- Hives (red, raised, itchy skin)
- Difficulty breathing

Contact the hospice team immediately if you (or your loved one) experience one or more of these serious side effects:

- Confusion
- Vision problems
- Slurred speech
- Unusual/excessive tiredness
- Muscle stiffness
- Lip smacking
- Problems with urination or coordination
- Unusual tremors or movements of hands or feet
- Restlessness
- Inability to sit still

Other less serious side effects of prochlorperazine include:

- Drowsiness or unusual tiredness
- Dizziness
- Constipation
- Headache
- Dry mouth
- Blurred vision
- Stomach pain
- Rash
- Nasal congestion
- Light sensitivity

## **Other things to be aware of when using prochlorperazine:**

- Prochlorperazine may cause drowsiness/dizziness, which may impair physical or mental abilities. You (or your loved one) should use caution when performing activities that require being alert (for example: driving or operating equipment)
- Tablets should be taken with a full glass of water.
- Tablets can be used rectally (moisten tablet with a little water before inserting into the rectum).
- Remember to remove the suppository from its outer covering before inserting it into the rectum.
- Contact the hospice team if your (or your loved one’s) symptoms do not improve or get worse.

*Reference: Clinical Pharmacology last accessed 1.26.24*