

Oxford Centre for Respiratory Medicine, Churchill Hospital

## Information about Meropenem

### **What is meropenem?**

Meropenem is part of a group of antibiotics called carbapenems. They kill bacteria by interfering with the ability of the bacteria to form cell walls. The bacteria therefore break up and die.

Meropenem has the ability to kill a wide range of bacteria, including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

### **What are the possible side effects of meropenem?**

If you experience any of the following serious side effects, stop taking meropenem and seek emergency medical attention:

- Allergic reaction – difficulty breathing, closing of the throat, swelling of the lips, tongue, or face
- Seizures
- Severe or watery diarrhoea
- Skin rash
- Unusual tiredness or weakness
- Unusual bruising or bleeding

Other, less serious side effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take meropenem and talk to the CF/Bronchiectasis team if you experience:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhoea or constipation
- Headache

Side effects other than those listed above may also occur. Talk to a member of the CF/Bronchiectasis team about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.