

EQUANOX

(MEDICAL NITROUS OXIDE 50% V/V OXYGEN 50% V/V) gas in gas cylinder

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to healthcare professional or emergency services officer.

Please report side effects. See the [full CMI](#) for further details.

1. Why am I having Equanox?

Equanox contains the active ingredients Nitrous Oxide and Medical Oxygen. Equanox is used for relief of severe pain, usually in emergency situations.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I having Equanox?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I have Equanox?

You will not be given Equanox if:

- You are intoxicated or heavily sedated
- you have a condition where air may be trapped within your body (e.g. severe head injury, heart or lung problems, recent surgery, decompression sickness, recent scuba diving, cysts, severely bloated stomach)
- you have ever had an allergic reaction to Equanox or nitrous oxide or oxygen.
- you have low vitamin B12 or folic acid levels, or your immune system isn't working properly.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding or planning to breast feed.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I have Equanox?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with Equanox and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I have Equanox?

- Your doctor or health professional will decide how much you can have, depending on the amount of pain relief you need. You will receive Equanox via a face mask or tube.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I have Equanox?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while having Equanox?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell your health professional or emergency services officer if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Pregnant women may be at risk of miscarriage and delivering infants with low birth weight.• Tell your health professional or emergency services officer if you have had a recent general anaesthetic.• Feel unwell• Feel that you are not getting enough Equanox• Hear a hissing sound coming from the cylinder.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not drive a vehicle or operate machinery.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The gas cylinder will be stored in a well ventilated undercover area away from direct sunlight and high temperatures, and restrained in a trolley to ensure it does not fall over.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while having Equanox?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

The most common side effects include: ear pain, feeling or being sick, feeling bloated, lightheaded, dizzy, sleepy, anxious, excited or depressed. Serious side effects may include very swollen stomach, sudden mood changes or feeling elated, confused or high; problems breathing, slow heart rate, low blood pressure, seizures.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

Equanox

Active ingredients: Medical Nitrous Oxide and Medical Oxygen

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Equanox. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using Medical Equanox.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I having Equanox?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I have Equanox?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I have Equanox?](#)
- [5. What should I know while having Equanox?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I having Equanox?

Equanox contains the active ingredients Medical Nitrous Oxide and Medical Oxygen. It is a medical gas.

Equanox is used for relief of severe pain, usually in emergency situations.

2. What should I know before I have Equanox?

Warnings

You will not be given Equanox if:

- You are intoxicated or heavily sedated
- you are smoking
- you have a condition where air may be trapped within your body (e.g. air embolism, severe head injury, heart or lung problems, decompression sickness or after a recent dive, cysts, swollen stomach area, or during operations on your ears or eyes)
- your face or jaw are seriously injured
- you have serious heart problems or have just had heart surgery
- you are confused, uncoordinated or are losing consciousness
- you have ever had an allergic reaction to Equanox or nitrous oxide or oxygen
- you have low vitamin B12 or folic acid levels, or your immune system isn't working properly

You will not have Equanox for more than 24 hours, or for more than once every 4 days, unless extra blood monitoring takes place.

Extra care will be taken for people with severe breathing problems, premature infants and people with very low blood pressure.

Check with your doctor if you:

- have any other medical conditions
- take any medicines for any other condition, such as morphine or sedatives.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to watch for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Pregnant women may be at risk of miscarriage and delivering infants with low birth weight and/or altered brain development.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

Elderly

Older people may need less Equanox.

Children

Children, especially newborn babies, will need less Equanox.

Babies and young children having large or multiple amounts of anaesthetic agents have shown some impaired brain development, although it is not known if this is due to the anaesthetic or the underlying medical condition.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Important medicines include:

- Medicines that make you sleepy
- Medicines that lower your blood pressure
- Medicines that may affect your breathing
- Painkillers such as morphine and fentanyl
- Medicines such as paraquat, bleomycin, amiodarone, nitrofurantoin and similar antibiotics.
- Methotrexate

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect or are affected by Equanox.

4. How do I have Equanox?

How much to have

- Your doctor or health professional will decide how much you can have, depending on the amount of pain relief you need.
- People with lung problems, babies and children may need a lesser amount of Equanox.

When to have Equanox

- Equanox should be used only as prescribed by your doctor or health professional.
- Follow all instructions provided while you are having Equanox.

How to have Equanox

- You will usually receive Equanox via a face mask or tube.

If you have too much Equanox

If you think that you have had too much Medical Equanox, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately tell the healthcare professional who is giving you Equanox.

If you are not near a healthcare professional, then:

- Phone the Poisons Information Centre (by calling 11 26), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

5. What should I know while having Equanox?

Things you should do

Tell any other doctor or health professional you are using Equanox.

Tell your healthcare professional or emergency services officer straight away if you:

- Feel unwell
- Feel that you are not getting enough Equanox
- Hear a hissing sound coming from the cylinder.

Be aware that your blood may be tested for levels of blood components and vitamins, especially if you have to have Equanox for a few days or longer.

Things you should not do

- Do not stop using this medicine suddenly without checking with your doctor or healthcare professional.

Driving or using machines

Do not drive or use any machines or tools until your healthcare professional has said it is OK to do so.

Equanox may cause dizziness and affect reaction times and awareness in some people.

Drinking alcohol

Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol.

Looking after your medicine

- The cylinder will be stored in a well-ventilated undercover area away from direct sunlight and high temperatures.
- Care will be taken when handling the cylinder, and it will be secured in a trolley to ensure it does not fall over.

It will be kept where young children cannot reach it.

Getting rid of any unwanted Equanox

The cylinder will be returned to Coregas.

It will not be used after the expiry date.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<p>These side effects are usually mild:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling dizzy, light-headed or sleepy • Feeling bloated • Feeling or being sick • Problems hearing or pain in your ears • Headache • Numbness in your hands and legs; problems flexing hand muscles or gripping, weak muscles, overactive reflexes • Tingling, or pins and needles • Feeling excited, agitated, anxious or restless • Feeling depressed, low or sad 	<p>Speak to your healthcare professional or emergency services officer if you have any of these side effects and they worry you.</p>

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
Effects on the lungs <ul style="list-style-type: none">Problems when breathing Effects on your central nervous system <ul style="list-style-type: none">Problems thinking clearly, sudden headache, sudden change in moodfeeling confused, very sleepy, or disorientated, or “high”twitching, uncontrolled shaking (seizures or fits) Effects on the heart or circulation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Slow or irregular heart ratelow blood pressure Effects on the stomach area such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">serious pain, extreme swelling. Effects on the blood such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Infections and inflammation due to low white cellsWeakness, tiredness problems breathing due to low red blood cells	Call the healthcare professional or emergency services officer straight away if they are treating you; or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Be aware that some people have become addicted to the nitrous oxide part of Equanox and have abused it.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist or healthcare provider before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What Equanox contains

Active ingredients	Medical Nitrous Oxide gas 50% v/v and Medical Oxygen gas 50% v/v
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	None

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What Equanox looks like

Equanox is a clear gas that smells slightly sweet and has no colour.

The cylinders have a white body with an ultramarine & white triangle shoulder. They are made of either steel or aluminum and sealed with a Pin Index valve outlet.

They may be available in the following pack sizes:

Container Size	Nominal Water volume (L)
C	2.8
D	9.5
E	23
G	50

Who distributes Equanox?

Coregas Pty Ltd.
66 Loftus Road,
Yennora, NSW, 2161.
Australia

Email: Healthcare@coregas.com

Phone: 1800 807 203

Website: www.coregas.com/healthcare

Aust R 27141.

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Use of gas cylinders

- Cylinders should be kept out of the reach of children.
- Care is needed in the handling and use of gas cylinders containing Equanox.
- Equanox is stored in high pressure gas cylinders under pressure at ambient temperature. Cylinders should be used in the vertical position with the valve uppermost.
- Equanox cylinders must be stored above 0°C . At temperatures below this the Nitrous oxide component may separate, leading to risk for potential inhalation of a hypoxic gas mixture. Should this occur the cylinder should be placed in a warm room for at least 2 hours, then rolled horizontally to and fro for at least 5 mins to remix the components.
- Cylinder should not have been stored below 0°C. Overdose can arise as the result of inappropriate storage of the gas cylinders at temperatures below 0°C.
- For further information refer to **Special precautions for storage**, below .
- The normal precautions required in the storage and use of medical gas cylinders are applicable. Cylinders should be stored away from sources of ignition, poisons, flammable or combustible materials. They should be secured upright, in a secure area, below 45°C, on a dry, well-ventilated area constructed of non-combustible material with a firm, level floor (preferably concrete) away from heavy traffic and emergency exits.
- Additional information is contained in the Material Safety Data Sheet for Equanox.
- Worksafe exposure standard TLV TWA for nitrous oxide is 25 ppm.

Check the following before use:

- Cylinder should not have been stored below 0°C. See above- **Use of gas cylinders**.
- Nitrous oxide (in Equanox) is non-flammable but strongly supports combustion (including some materials which do not normally burn in air). It is highly dangerous when in contact with oils, greases, tarry substances and many plastics due to the risk of spontaneous combustion with high pressure gases.
- Check that the dispensing equipment connection matches cylinder valve outlet.
- Check that the cylinder pressure is a true indicator of quantity remaining in cylinder.

Preparation for use

- Cylinder valves should be opened momentarily prior to use to blow any foreign matter out of the outlet.
- Ensure that the connecting face on the yoke, manifold or regulator is clean and the sealing washer or 'O' ring where fitted is in good condition.
- Cylinder valves must be opened slowly.
- Only the appropriate regulator should be used for the particular gas concerned.
- Cylinder valves and any associated equipment must never be lubricated and must be kept free from oil and grease.

Leaks

- Should leaks occur this will usually be evident by a hissing noise.
- Leaks can be found by brushing the suspected area with an approved leak test solution.
- There are no user serviceable parts associated with these valves, do not attempt to correct any problems with leakage from any part of the valve itself. Label any faulty containers appropriately and return them to Coregas for repair.
- Sealing or jointing compounds must never be used to cure a leak.
- Never use excessive force when connecting equipment to cylinders.

Handling of Cylinders

- Cylinders should be handled with care and not knocked violently or allowed to fall.
- Cylinders should only be moved with the appropriate size and type of trolley.
- When in use cylinders should be firmly secured to a suitable cylinder support.
- Cylinders containing liquefiable gas must always be used vertically with the valve uppermost.
- Medical gases must only be used for medicinal purposes.
- Smoking and naked lights must not be allowed within the vicinity of cylinders or pipeline outlets.
- After use cylinder valves should be closed using moderate force only and the pressure in the regulator or tailpipe released.
- When empty the cylinder valve must be closed.
- Immediately return used cylinders to the used cylinder store for return to Coregas.

Special precautions for storage

Equanox cylinders must be stored above 0°C .

The normal precautions required in the storage of medical gas cylinders as described below are applicable.

Please refer to Commonwealth, State and Territory Dangerous Goods legislation and the appropriate Australian Standards.eg AS 4332.

- Cylinders should be stored under cover, preferably inside, kept dry and clean and not subjected to extremes of heat or cold.
- Cylinders should not be stored near stocks of combustible materials or near sources of heat.
- Warning notices prohibiting smoking and naked lights must be posted clearly.
- Emergency services should be advised of the location of the cylinder store.
- Medical cylinders containing different gases should be segregated and identified within the store.
- Full and empty cylinders should be stored separately. Full cylinders should be used in strict rotation.
- Cylinders must not be repainted, have any markings obscured or labels removed.
- D size cylinders and larger should be stored vertically; C size cylinders can be stored horizontally.
- Precautions should be taken to protect cylinders from theft
- Cylinders should be kept out of the reach of children.