INSTRUCTIONS from __________________________________________

BEFORE starting this medication—STOP taking these cholinesterase inhibitor drugs: Aricept® (donepezil), Reminyl® (galantamine), and Cognex® (tacrine).

1. Follow this schedule for taking Rivastigmine (Exelon®) with your morning & evening meals:

   **Weeks __ – __**  Take one 1.5 mg capsule (yellow) twice a day with food
   **Weeks __ – __**  Take one 3 mg capsule (orange) twice a day with food
   **Weeks __ – __**  Take one 4.5 mg capsule (red) twice a day with food
   **Weeks __ – __**  Take one 6 mg capsule (orange & red) twice a day with food

2. Missed Doses and What To Do:
   - If one dose is missed, it can be taken as soon as possible, unless it is less than 6 hours before the next dose is due.
   - If doses have been missed for several days or longer, it would be needed to be restarted at the lowest dose and gradually increased. Contact your health care provider for instructions.

3. Notify your health care provider of any change in other prescribed or over-the-counter medications.

**Possible side effects:**

| Allergic reactions (rash, breathing difficulty) | STOP the medication. Call your health care provider or obtain emergency assistance. |

| Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and fatigue. | These side effects occur more often when the dose is being increased, and most of the time, are temporary, lasting 1-3 weeks, then resolving with continued use. Be sure to take the medication with food and adequate liquid intake intake. |
How Rivastigmine Works

This drug is classified as an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor. Rivastigmine, (Exelon®) is believed to work by increasing the concentration of a brain chemical (acetylcholine) by blocking the enzyme (cholinesterase), which normally breaks it down.

Acetylcholine plays a role in memory and thinking function. By enhancing this neurochemical, rivastigmine, (Exelon®), may produce modest enhancement of one’s thinking ability.

While rivastigmine (Exelon®) may improve symptoms in persons with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease, it does not cure or stop the progressive decline seen in the course of the disease.

WARNINGS

• If you are to have surgery, for any reason, be sure to let your physician or dentist know that you are taking this medication. Rivastigmine (Exelon®) can cause exaggerated muscle relaxation when combined with anesthesia drugs.

• Some patients may be at risk for changes in heart rhythm or seizure activity.

• If a person experiences severe nausea, vomiting, salivation, sweating, low pulse rate (below 60/min), decreased respirations, collapse or seizures -- CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

Treatment with rivastigmine (Exelon®) should be monitored regularly by your health care provider.

If you have questions or problems, please call (503) 494-7615 between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

For information on Alzheimer’s disease contact:

* Oregon Aging and Alzheimer Disease Center (503) 494-6976
* Alzheimer’s Association/ Oregon and Greater Idaho Chapter 1-800-733-0402 or (503) 413-7115

* Alzheimer’s Disease Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center: 1-800- 438-4380; www.alzheimers.org