

## EXPANDING THE USES OF NITAZOXANIDE

### An Older Medication With Growing Interest in Gut and Viral Support

Over the past two decades, nitazoxanide has gained attention for more than its original use. First developed in the 1970s as an anti-parasitic medication, it is now being studied for its broader activity against certain parasites, bacteria, viruses, and other microbes.

At Physicians Preference Pharmacy, we often hear from guests who are looking for additional options when symptoms keep coming back, or when standard treatments have not worked as well as hoped. Nitazoxanide is one medication that continues to generate interest because of the way it works and the range of situations where it may be considered.

### HOW NITAZOXANIDE WORKS

Nitazoxanide belongs to a group of medications called thiazolides. After you take it by mouth, your body changes it into its active form, called tizoxanide.

Its main action involves interfering with an enzyme called **pyruvate-ferredoxin oxidoreductase**, or **PFOR**. This enzyme plays an important role in how certain bacteria, parasites, and protozoa produce energy. When that process is disrupted, the organism can no longer function or survive as effectively.

In other words, nitazoxanide targets a key part of how certain organisms function.

#### Nitazoxanide has also drawn interest for its potential to:

- Disrupt energy production in certain bacteria, parasites, and protozoa
- Interfere with how some viruses mature and spread
- Support the body's natural antiviral response
- Influence inflammatory signaling in the body

One reason nitazoxanide has drawn attention is that some of its antiviral effects appear to involve supporting the body's own response, rather than only attacking the virus directly.

### NITAZOXANIDE AND VIRAL ILLNESSES

#### Influenza

Nitazoxanide has demonstrated antiviral activity against influenza through a mechanism that differs from some standard antiviral medications.

Rather than only blocking viral release, it interferes with the maturation of viral proteins needed for proper assembly. As a result, the virus is less able to form infectious particles and continue replicating.

### HOW TO ORDER

#### You may place refills:

📞 281.828.9088

🖱️ [physicianspreferencerox.com](https://physicianspreferencerox.com)

### TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR

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**ACCREDITED**

*Physicians Preference Pharmacy standards are more stringent than those of the United States Pharmacopeia (USP). In addition to onsite weight testing, we send multiple samples per week to an outside laboratory for potency testing. Physicians Preference Pharmacy ranks first in Houston for the number of samples sent for potency testing and in the top 8% of pharmacies nationwide.*

*Physicians Preference Pharmacy is a Houston-based, PCAB-accredited compounding pharmacy serving physicians and patients since 2001. We are licensed to work with doctors and ship to patients in 49 states (excludes AL).*



### Its antiviral activity also includes:

- Support for intracellular antiviral signaling
- Upregulation of early antiviral immune responses
- Activity against resistant strains in laboratory settings
- Disruption of viral protein processing

In viral respiratory illnesses such as influenza and SARS-CoV-2, the most common symptoms people want relief from include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, congestion, headache, body aches, fatigue, and, in some cases, nausea, diarrhea, or shortness of breath. Because these illnesses often look similar at the start, treatment is typically aimed at reducing symptom burden and supporting recovery early in the course of illness.

These properties help explain why nitazoxanide continues to receive attention in viral respiratory care.

## NITAZOXANIDE AND GUT HEALTH

One of the most important areas of interest for nitazoxanide is digestive health, especially in cases involving microbial imbalance.

### SIBO and Dysbiosis

Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth, or SIBO, often involves a mix of microbes rather than a single organism.

### Guests dealing with SIBO or dysbiosis often experience:

- Bloating
- Abdominal distension
- Gas after meals
- Constipation, diarrhea, or both
- Food intolerances
- Recurring digestive discomfort

Nitazoxanide is especially useful in this setting because of its broad microbial coverage

### Broad Microbial Coverage

#### Nitazoxanide has activity against:

- Gram-positive bacteria
- Gram-negative bacteria
- Anaerobes
- Certain protozoa, including *Giardia*, *Dientamoeba fragilis*, and *Blastocystis hominis*

This broad coverage makes it a valuable option in cases where symptoms are persistent, recurrent, or driven by mixed microbial overgrowth.

### Why It Matters in SIBO

By blocking PFOR pathways, nitazoxanide directly disrupts fermentation-related microbial activity. This helps address the gas production and bloating that commonly occur with SIBO.

Another key difference is that nitazoxanide does not remain limited to the intestinal tract. After metabolism, its active form enters systemic circulation, allowing broader reach than medications that stay mainly inside the gut lumen.

### Observed benefits include:

- Less bloating after meals
- Better bowel regularity
- Fewer food intolerances
- Less nighttime digestive discomfort
- Improved motility patterns

These features make nitazoxanide especially important in recurrent or treatment-resistant digestive cases.

## HOW IT IS COMPOUNDED

At Physicians Preference Pharmacy, nitazoxanide is compounded into a **sugar-free, dye-free capsule**.

It is used in patients over one year of age, and dosing is based on age, indication,

and individual clinical needs. Duration of therapy can also vary depending on severity and immune status.

Nitazoxanide is typically taken with food to support absorption.

## SAFETY PROFILE

Nitazoxanide is generally well tolerated. **Reported side effects are usually mild and can include:**

- Headache
- Abdominal discomfort
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Urine discoloration
- Mild rash

It should not be used in anyone with a known hypersensitivity to nitazoxanide or any component of the formulation.

## WHEN NITAZOXANIDE IS CONSIDERED

Nitazoxanide is often considered in situations such as:

- Treatment-resistant SIBO
- Mixed microbial dysbiosis
- Protozoal gastrointestinal infections
- Biofilm-associated GI infections
- Poor tolerance or response to rifaximin
- Recurrent symptoms after antibiotic therapy
- Influenza
- Viral respiratory infections under clinical evaluation
- Parasite-associated diarrhea

Its broad antimicrobial spectrum and host-supportive antiviral activity continue to make it an important option across multiple areas of care.

Our pharmacists are always available at **281-828-9088** to discuss dosing strategies, formulation customization, and patient-specific goals.