AUSLON
MEDICAL GROUP

Information for adult patients prescribed

Pregabalin for the Treatment of Pain

Why have I been prescribed Pregabalin?

- Pregabalin is used to treat some types of persistent pain.
- Pregabalin is commonly prescribed for nerve pain, such as burning, shooting or stabbing pain.
- Pregabalin belongs to a group of medicines called anticonvulsants which are also used to treat epilepsy.
- You may notice that information from the manufacturer may not mention your type of pain.

How does Pregabalin work?

- Pregabalin works by changing the way that nerves send messages to your brain. If the messages are reduced, then the pain will be reduced.

When should I take it?

- Normally, the starting dose is small and may be taken one to two times a day, but the dose will be gradually increased.
- You will be told how much to start taking and how to increase or decrease the dose based on pain relief and side effects.
- If you are taking antacid medication, it is best to wait for two hours after taking it before taking pregabalin.

How is Pregabalin taken?

- The capsules should be swallowed whole, with a glass of water.
- Pregabalin may be taken on an empty or full stomach.
- Do not take more than prescribed.

How long will it take to work?

- Every patient is different. You may notice some initial benefit within a few days, however it may take a little longer for a full effect. Your prescriber may need to increase the dose for Pregabalin to be effective. Do not increase the dose without consulting with your prescriber
- Pregabalin does not work for everyone. If you do not feel any improvement in your pain after 4-6 weeks, do not suddenly stop taking the tablets but speak to your prescriber or pharmacist to discuss reducing and stopping the medication.

What are the possible side effects?

- Most side effects are mild and it is expected that they will reduce after several days.
- Generally side effects are more troublesome just after starting Pregabalin or increasing the dose. It is important to persist in taking Pregabalin as these side effects usually wear off.
- Common side effects include; drowsiness, dizziness, fatigue, weight gain and muscle tremor. If you have these side effects and they are of concern contact your presciber or pharmacist for advice.
- Less common side effects include vision disturbances, indigestion, leg swelling, memory loss, euphoria, mood changes, hallucinations or rash. If any of these side effects occur, contact your prescriber or pharmacist for advice.
- Some people develop severe anxiety if they miss a dose and some take more than prescribed to help their symptoms. If you are worried this is happening to you, discuss it with your prescriber.

Can I take this medication long-term?

- Yes, if it helps. You may wish to reduce treatment every so often, to check if your pain is still a problem. This should be done with the advice of your GP or pain specialist, gradually reducing your medication over a period of time.
- Do not stop taking pregabalin suddenly, you might experience withdrawal symptoms. Speak to your prescriber who will be able to supervise a gradual reduction.

Can I drink alcohol?

- Alcohol increases the sedative effects of Pregabalin, it is best not to drink alcohol when taking it.

Can I drive?

- Pregabalin may affect your ability to drive (e.g. drowsiness). The risk is increased if you take it along with other medications that have drowsiness as a side effect.
- If you feel any impairment, do not drive

What should I tell the doctor/prescriber?

- If you are allergic to any drugs
- If you are taking any other medicines or herbal medicines
- If you are pregnant or breast feeding, or if you are planning to become pregnant in the future
- If you have a kidney problem
- If you have or have had a history of excessive alcohol use, recreational drug use or addiction to prescribed or over-the-counter medication.
- If you are regularly taking strong opioid medications (e.g. Tramadol, Tapentadol, Morphine, Oxycodone, Fentanyl)

What if I forget or miss a dose?

- If you forget a dose, consider taking it when you remember. However, this may result in some increased sleepiness and may affect your concentration, work or driving ability.
- Alternatively, you could wait until the next dose is scheduled and take your medication as normal.
- Do not take two doses together.

What if I want to stop taking Pregabalin?

- Do not stop taking Pregabalin suddenly, you might experience withdrawal symptoms. Speak to your prescribing healthcare professional who will be able to supervise a gradual reduction

This information is not intended to replace your doctor's advice. We advise you to read the manufacturer's information for patients, which will be supplied by your pharmacist when your medicine is dispensed. Keep all medicines away from children, vulnerable adults or pets.

Statement of Acknowledgement

- I, ..., confirm that I have read the information on Pregabalin provided in this form.

- Email address: .....

..../...../.....

E-Signature *Date*