

## What's my Drug?

**Prednisolone tablets** This is a steroid medicine. It is used in a lot of different conditions. Its main job is to settle inflammation. Inflamed areas can be painful, swollen, red, warm, and may not work properly.

**How to take it:** It is usually taken in the morning after breakfast. Wash the tablets down with a small drink of water.

Possible side effects include: This medicine has a large number of potential side effects, particularly if used long-term. It can affect weight (possibly by stimulating appetite) and sleep. Your blood pressure could go up. You could get headaches. Steroids can reduce your resistance to things like Chickenpox and measles. If you do develop an infection, steroids can mask the symptoms. So, if you think you are getting an infection contact a health professional. They can also thin the bones (osteoporosis). It can cause mood changes such as depression and very occasionally significant mental health problems (psychosis). This medicine can affect the eye which could cause vision problems. Contact a doctor if you notice any vision problems. Growth can be affected in children.

Warnings and Cautions: Never stop long-term steroid treatment suddenly. When your course finishes you will be advised how to wean off them safely. If you become ill while taking steroids, let your doctor know. You may have to increase the dose for a while. If you have diabetes you may find this treatment can affect your blood glucose levels. Discuss it with your doctor if necessary. Steroids don't mix well with some other drugs so check with your health professional. You should not be given live vaccines while on this treatment. You should be given a Steroid Treatment Card when you start this treatment. Carry it with you at all times. If you lose it, obtain another one from your health professional as soon as possible. Carefully check the Product Information Leaflet for full details of all its other potential side effects.