



Pregabalin Factsheet



What is Pregabalin?

- Class C substance (this means it is illegal to possess it without a prescription)
- Licensed to treat Generalised Anxiety Disorder, epilepsy and nerve ending (neuropathic) pain
- Often used to treat fibromyalgia and joint/back/neck pain

Side Effects include:

- Weight gain
- Muddled thoughts
- Clumsiness
- Drowsiness
- Thirst
- Dizziness
- Swelling of limbs
- Chest pain
- Wheezing

Withdrawal Symptoms

May occur with stopping medication suddenly

- Insomnia
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Sweating
- Diarrhoea

Drug Interactions

Pregabalin should be used with caution with the below medications:

- Alcohol
- Anti-depressants
- Anti-sickness tablets
- Epilepsy tablets
- Benzodiazepines (diazepam, sleeping tablets)
- Morphine based pain tablets (co-codamol, tramadol/maxitram, fentanyl patches, oxy-

Street names

- Lyrica®
- 'Budweisers'
- 'Buds'



Misuse

Due to effects such as lifted mood, giddiness, increased motivation and relaxation Pregabalin has now become a drug of misuse in Northern Ireland

Medical Harm

- 33 Pregabalin related deaths in 2017 in NI
- Addiction
- Can cause drowsiness, sedation and may result in you stopping breathing

Do not stop taking pregabalin suddenly as this may increase your risk of developing withdrawal symptoms and an increase in your original pain. If you have concerns regarding this medication please speak to the practice pharmacist or GP regarding an individual slow reduction programme.