

### **Weight gain**

- A small proportion of patients may experience weight gain with Pregabalin, however this seems to be with higher doses. Very few patients discontinue taking pregabalin because of weight gain.

Please read this leaflet in conjunction with the information provided in the dispensed Pregabalin packs.

**Notes for your GP:** Your patient has been prescribed pregabalin for neuropathic pain. Their dose has been titrated up to 300mg bd. If the medication has been helpful, please continue the prescription at 300mg bd. If the drug has proved ineffective, please tail off over two weeks.

Extra notes:

## Oxford Pain Consultants

### Pregabalin (pre-GAB-a-lin) 75mg capsules

**It is important that you keep this leaflet and show it to your pharmacist and GP**

This information leaflet is designed to give you necessary information about this medicine. It will help you clearly understand why your doctor has prescribed it, benefits, possible side effects, how to take it and who to contact for more advice.

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## What is Pregabalin (Lyrica)?

- Pregabalin is a new drug. It has been licensed for the treatment of nerve pain. It is different from over the counter painkillers, which might be why your Doctor has advised you take it.

## How do I take it?

- The dose of Pregabalin will be different for different patients. The dose slowly increases. Please follow the table. Do not stop taking Pregabalin suddenly.

## Please take Pregabalin as shown below.

Day	AM	PM
1	-	1 x 75mg
2	-	1 x 75mg
3	1 x 75mg	1 x 75mg
4	1 x 75mg	2 x 75mg
5	2 x 75mg	2 x 75mg
6	2 x 75mg	2 x 75mg
7	2 x 75mg	3 x 75mg
8	3 x 75mg	3 x 75mg
9	3 x 75mg	4 x 75mg
10	4 x 75mg	4 x 75mg
11	4 x 75mg	4 x 75mg

**Please contact your GP on day 10 to arrange a further prescription.**

## What benefit can I expect?

- Nerve pain is difficult to treat. ‘Normal’ painkillers often don’t work. Pregabalin targets the nerve signalling process to block pain signals. You may find your pain level falls, which will help you to cope better.

## What are the precautions?

- This medicine is usually well tolerated. It will add to the effects of alcohol or other drugs that can make you drowsy.
- Pregabalin may cause drowsiness, dizziness blurred vision, clumsiness, or difficulty in thinking.
- *Some patients may experience mood swings and changes to their behaviour. In the unlikely event symptoms such as increased anxiety and agitation should be reported to the GP.*
- Be careful how you react to this medicine before you drive a car or use heavy machinery
- Side effects are often related to the size of the dose and are usually temporary.
- You may need to reduce the dose to balance the benefits with any side effects
- Pregabalin is not addictive. However if you need to stop taking it, you should do so slowly. You can ask your Doctor about this. Some people feel sick if they stop it too quickly
- Pregabalin has not been tested in pregnancy.