

Pregabalin is a prescription drug used in the management of a number of long-term conditions, including epilepsy, neuropathic pain and generalised anxiety disorder. The colour of the capsules vary depending on the manufacturers. Capsules come in 25mg, 50mg, 75mg, 100mg, 150mg, 200mg and 300mg doses. Pregabalin misuse with high doses is increasingly common and can be fatal when combined with opioids or other sedatives. Tolerance can develop quickly.

You can never be fully sure of the contents of tablets bought from illicit sources online or from street dealers. There is a possibility that pregabalin sourced without a prescription is counterfeit or adulterated. We strongly recommend that you use pregabalin within its prescribing recommendations, but if you decide to misuse this drug you should be aware of the following advice.

Harm reduction information:

- Never mix with other drugs, including alcohol. This increases the risk of overdose or fatal overdose
- Start with a test dose and don't take more for at least two hours.
- Know the quantity, always look at the dose. This will help you understand the dosage you are taking and your tolerance to the substance.
- Don't suddenly stop. Withdrawal should be a slow process with medical supervision.
- Pregabalin can lower inhibitions. Always use in trusted company and in a safe environment.
- **Avoid injecting**. This can lead to collapsed or clotted veins, infected skin and poor circulation. If injecting or snorting discuss further harm reduction advice with a drug

worker or download the factsheet (details below).

 Illicit pregabalin may contain adulterants and there is no quality control on substances purchased this way.

Seek medical help and contact emergency services if you or a friend has used too much pregabalin. For information and support on drugs and alcohol visit: **drugs.ie/pregabalin** or call the **HSE Drugs and Alcohol Helpline on 1800 459 459** Download the Pregabalin fact sheet at drugs.ie/pregabalin





Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte Health Service Executive