

ADVERTISEMENT

Get Consumer Health  
Updates on Drugs.com

In partnership with



View Updates



Q enter a search term

Search

Browse all medications [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Phonetic Search](#)

Drugs A to Z

Pill Identifier

Interactions Checker

News &amp; Alerts

Health Professionals

Community

Mednotes

[Drugs A to Z](#) [Drugs by Condition](#) [Drugs by Class](#) [Side Effects](#) [Dosage](#) [Pregnancy](#) [Natural Products](#) [Vet Drugs](#) [Symptom Checker](#) [Harvard Health Topics](#) [Home](#) > [Drugs by Condition](#) > [R](#) > [Rheumatoid Arthritis](#) > Prednisone Consumer Information [Print](#) [Save or Share](#)

# Prednisone

Generic Name: prednisone (PRED ni sone)

Brand names: *Deltasone, Meticorten, Liquid Pred, Orasone, Prednicen-M, Prednicot, Sterapred*

Ads by Google

[Rheumatoid Arthritis Meds](#)[MoreRAinfo.com](#) An FDA-approved medication for people with rheumatoid arthritis.[Managing Side Effects](#)[CancerCenter.com/CareThatNeverQuits](#) There is hope. Chat privately with our oncology info experts today.[Safe Anxiety Treatments](#)[www.NwBioFeedback.org](#) Safe Biofeedback Treatments for ADD, ADHD, Anxiety, Autism & More!

## What is prednisone?

Prednisone is in a class of drugs called corticosteroids. Prednisone prevents the release of substances in the body that cause inflammation.

ADVERTISEMENT

Prednisone is used to treat many different conditions such as allergic disorders, skin conditions, ulcerative colitis, arthritis, lupus, psoriasis, or breathing disorders.

Prednisone may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Important information about prednisone

You should not use this medication if you are allergic to prednisone, or if you have a fungal infection anywhere in your body.

Before taking prednisone, tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, and about all other medicines you are using. There are many other diseases that can be affected by steroid use, and many other medicines that

Sign In or Register

[Forgot password?](#)

username

password

Sign In

## Related Prednisone Information

[Approval History](#)  
Drug history at FDA[CSA Schedule](#)  
Not a controlled drug[Availability](#)  
Prescription only

Reviews

Average User  
Rating56 User Reviews 7.5 [Rate it!](#)

### Related Pages

[Detailed Side Effects](#)  
[Drug Interactions](#)  
[Drug Images](#)[Pregnancy & Breastfeeding](#)  
[Dosage Information](#)  
[Support Group Q & A](#)

### Drug Class

[Glucocorticoids](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

### Related Drugs

[Asthma](#)  
[Singulair](#),  
[methylprednisolone](#),  
[dexamethasone](#),  
[triamcinolone](#), [Medrol](#)  
[Dosepak](#), [Decadron](#),  
[More...](#)[Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)  
[naproxen](#), [Humira](#),  
[meloxicam](#), [ibuprofen](#),  
[aspirin](#), [Celebrex](#), [More...](#)[Osteoarthritis](#)  
[naproxen](#), [Cymbalta](#),  
[meloxicam](#), [ibuprofen](#),  
[aspirin](#), [Celebrex](#), [More...](#)[Psoriasis](#)  
[Humira](#), [methotrexate](#),  
[triamcinolone topical](#),  
[hydrocortisone topical](#),  
[calcitriol topical](#), [More...](#)[62 more conditions...](#)

can interact with steroids.

Your dosage needs may change if you have any unusual stress such as a serious illness, fever or infection, or if you have surgery or a medical emergency. Tell your doctor about any such situation that affects you during treatment.

Prednisone can weaken your immune system, making it easier for you to get an infection or worsening an infection you already have or have recently had. Tell your doctor about any illness or infection you have had within the past several weeks.

Avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Call your doctor for preventive treatment if you are exposed to chicken pox or measles. These conditions can be serious or even fatal in people who are using a steroid.

Do not receive a "live" vaccine while using prednisone. The vaccine may not work as well during this time, and may not fully protect you from disease.

Wear a medical alert tag or carry an ID card stating that you take prednisone. Any medical care provider who treats you should know that you are using prednisone.

## Before taking prednisone

You should not use this medication if you are allergic to prednisone, or if you have a fungal infection anywhere in your body.

Prednisone can weaken your immune system, making it easier for you to get an infection. Steroids can also worsen an infection you already have, or reactivate an infection you recently had. Before taking prednisone, tell your doctor about any illness or infection you have had within the past several weeks.

To make sure you can safely take prednisone, tell your doctor if you have any of these other conditions:

- liver disease (such as cirrhosis);
- kidney disease;
- a thyroid disorder;
- diabetes;
- a history of malaria;
- tuberculosis;
- osteoporosis;
- a muscle disorder such as myasthenia gravis;
- glaucoma or cataracts;
- [herpes infection](#) of the eyes;
- stomach [ulcers](#), ulcerative colitis, or diverticulitis;
- depression or mental illness;
- congestive heart failure; or
- high blood pressure

FDA pregnancy category C. It is not known whether prednisone will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to [become pregnant](#) while using this medication.

Prednisone can pass into breast milk and may harm a nursing baby. Do not use prednisone without telling your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

See also: [Prednisone pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (in more detail)

Prednisone can affect growth in children. Talk with your doctor if you think your child is not growing at a normal rate while using this medication.

### Related Video



#### COPD

How COPD differs from asthma, and why it's so important to not smoke.

### Drug Images



Prednisone 1 mg



Prednisone 2.5 mg

[View all 44 images](#)

### Get Updates by Email

Email me about prednisone systemic:

News and Warnings related to this drug

Also send the Drugs.com monthly newsletter  
FDA Medwatch Alerts for all medications



#### ADVERTISEMENT

##### [Lower Your Blood Pressure - The All Natural Way](#)

The only non-drug medical device clinically proven to lower blood pressure [www.resperate.com](#)

##### [\\$350,000 in Life Insurance](#)

Protect Your Family Today. Coverage as low as \$13.04/month. Free Quote Here [BestQuoteMarket.com](#)

##### [Weight Loss Medicine](#)

Immediate weight loss - reduces fat absorption - less fat means less pounds [www.pharmcom.com](#)

### Related News and Articles

#### [Health Tip: Things That Raise Your Risk of Thrush](#)

7 Aug 2010

-- Thrush is a yeast infection that forms in the mouth and on the tongue. The U.S. National Library of Medicine says the following factors can increase your ...

#### [Better Drug Emerges for Steroid-Induced Bone Loss](#)

1 Dec 2009

The drug teriparatide is better at increasing bone density and reducing vertebral fractures in patients with glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis than the drug ...

Ads by Google

### [Rheumatoid Pain](#)

What causes RA Learn about RA  
[Symptoms-Advice.com/RA-Pain](#)

### [Hemorrhoid Removal](#)

Non-Surgical Hemorrhoid Removal. Find a Physician  
 Near You Today!  
[www.CRHSysstem.com/Hemorrhoid-Relief](#)

### [How To Sleep All Night](#)

Try A Simple Solution to Fall Asleep Fast And Sleep  
 All Night  
[www.PeakLife.com/TrySomnapure](#)

## How should I take prednisone?

Take prednisone exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results.

Take with [food](#) if prednisone upsets your stomach.

Your dosage needs may change if you have unusual stress such as a serious illness, fever or infection, or if you have surgery or a medical emergency. Tell your doctor about any such situation that affects you.

Measure liquid prednisone with a special dose measuring spoon or medicine cup, not with a regular table spoon. If you do not have a dose measuring device, ask your pharmacist for one.

Prednisone can cause unusual results with certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using prednisone.

Do not stop using prednisone suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Talk to your doctor about how to avoid withdrawal symptoms when stopping the medication. Wear a medical alert tag or carry an ID card stating that you take prednisone. Any medical care provider who treats you should know that you are using prednisone.

Store prednisone at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

See also: [Prednisone dosage](#) (in more detail)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Long-term use of high prednisone doses can lead to symptoms such as thinning skin, easy bruising, changes in the shape or location of body fat (especially in your face, neck, back, and waist), increased acne or facial hair, [menstrual](#) problems, impotence, or loss of interest in sex.

## What should I avoid while taking prednisone?

Avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Call your doctor for preventive treatment if you are exposed to chicken pox or measles. These conditions can be serious or even fatal in people who are using a steroid.

Do not receive a "live" vaccine while taking prednisone. The vaccine may not work as well during this time, and may not fully protect you from disease. Live vaccines include measles, mumps,

## Help and Support

Looking for answers? [Ask a question](#) or go join the [prednisone support group](#) to connect with others who have similar interests.

**Harvard Health Publications**  
**SPECIAL HEALTH REPORT**

**Joint Pain Relief**  
*Healing exercises for your  
 shoulders, hips, knees, & ankles*

Available in print with Free  
 Shipping or instant download.

[Learn More](#) **Save 30%**

rubella (MMR), Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), oral polio, rotavirus, smallpox, typhoid, yellow fever, varicella (chickenpox), H1N1 influenza, and nasal flu vaccine.

Avoid drinking alcohol while you are taking prednisone.

---

[Ads by Google](#)

[Back Injury Medication](#)

Safe Endoscopic Alternative For Your Back Pain-Get Your Life Back!

[www.LaserSpineInstitute.com/Back](http://www.LaserSpineInstitute.com/Back)

[Blood Pressure - No Drugs](#)

Discover what the Chinese have used for centuries for blood pressure.

[www.elixirindustry.com](http://www.elixirindustry.com)

[Phenphedrine Side Effects](#)

90 Day Guarantee on Phenphedrine. Free Shipping on \$75+ Orders.

[TopRatedFatBurners.com/Phenphedrine](http://TopRatedFatBurners.com/Phenphedrine)

---

## Prednisone side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction to prednisone: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat. Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- blurred vision, eye pain, or seeing halos around lights;
- swelling, rapid weight gain, feeling short of breath;
- severe depression, unusual thoughts or behavior, seizure (convulsions);
- bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood;
- pancreatitis (severe pain in your upper stomach spreading to your back, nausea and vomiting, fast heart rate);
- low potassium (confusion, uneven heart rate, extreme thirst, increased urination, leg discomfort, muscle weakness or limp feeling); or
- dangerously high blood pressure (severe headache, blurred vision, buzzing in your ears, anxiety, confusion, chest pain, shortness of breath, uneven heartbeats, seizure).

Less serious prednisone side effects may include:

- sleep problems (insomnia), mood changes;
- acne, dry skin, thinning skin, bruising or discoloration;
- slow wound healing;
- increased sweating;
- headache, dizziness, spinning sensation;
- nausea, stomach pain, bloating; or
- changes in the shape or location of body fat (especially in your arms, legs, face, neck, breasts, and waist).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

See also: [Prednisone side effects](#) (in more detail)

## Prednisone Dosing Information

Usual Adult Prednisone Dose for Nephrotic Syndrome:

Initial (first three episodes): 2 mg/kg/day (maximum 80 mg/day) in divided doses 3 to 4 times/day until urine is protein free for 3 consecutive days (maximum: 28 days); followed by 1 to 1.5 mg/kg/dose given every other day for 4 weeks.

Maintenance dose for frequent relapses: 0.5 to 1 mg/kg/ dose given every other day for 3 to 6

months.

Usual Adult Prednisone Dose for Anti-inflammatory:

5 to 60 mg per day in divided doses 1 to 4 times/day.

Usual Pediatric Dose for Nephrotic Syndrome:

Initial (first three episodes): 2 mg/kg/day (maximum 80 mg/day) in divided doses 3 to 4 times/day until urine is protein free for 3 consecutive days (maximum: 28 days); followed by 1 to 1.5 mg/kg/dose given every other day for 4 weeks.

Maintenance dose for frequent relapses: 0.5 to 1 mg/kg/ dose given every other day for 3 to 6 months.

Usual Pediatric Prednisone Dose for Asthma:

< 1 year:

acute: 10 mg orally every 12 hours.

maintenance: 10 mg orally very other day.

1 to 4 years:

acute: 20 mg orally every 12 hours.

maintenance: 20 mg orally every other day.

5 to 12 years:

acute: 30 mg orally every 12 hours.

maintenance: 30 mg orally every other day.

>12 years:

acute: 40 mg orally every 12 hours.

maintenance: 40 mg orally every other day.

Usual Pediatric Dose for Anti-inflammatory:

0.05 to 2 mg/kg/day divided 1 to 4 times/day

Usual Pediatric Prednisone Dose for Immunosuppression:

0.05 to 2 mg/kg/day divided 1 to 4 times/day

## What other drugs will affect prednisone?

Many drugs can interact with prednisone. Below is just a partial list. Tell your doctor if you are using:

- aspirin (taken on a daily basis or at high doses);
- a diuretic (water pill);
- a blood thinner such as warfarin (Coumadin, Jantoven);
- cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune);
- insulin or diabetes medications you take by [mouth](#);
- ketoconazole (Extina, Ketozone, Nizoral, Xolegal);
- rifampin (Rifadin, Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane); or
- seizure medications such as phenytoin (Dilantin) or phenobarbital (Luminal, Solfoton).

This list is not complete and other drugs may interact with prednisone. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products.

Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor.

## More Prednisone resources

- [Prednisone Side Effects](#) (in more detail)
- [Prednisone Dosage](#)
- [Prednisone Use in Pregnancy & Breastfeeding](#)
- [Drug Images](#)

[Prednisone Drug Interactions](#)

- [Prednisone Support Group](#)
- [56 Reviews for Prednisone - Add your own review/rating](#)

**Professional** [Prednisone Prescribing Information](#) (FDA)

**Professional** [Prednisone Professional Patient Advice](#) (Wolters Kluwer)

**Professional** [Prednisone Monograph](#) (AHFS DI)

**Med Facts** [Prednisone MedFacts Consumer Leaflet](#) (Wolters Kluwer)

**Professional** [Deltasone Prescribing Information](#) (FDA)

**Med Facts** [Sterapred MedFacts Consumer Leaflet](#) (Wolters Kluwer)

## Compare Prednisone with other medications

- [Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia](#)
- [Adrenogenital Syndrome](#)
- [Ankylosing Spondylitis](#)
- [Asthma](#)
- [Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia](#)
- [Bullous Pemphigoid](#)
- [Chorioretinitis](#)
- [Cogan's Syndrome](#)
- [Corneal Ulcer](#)
- [Dermatomyositis](#)
- [Epicondylitis, Tennis Elbow](#)
- [Fibromyalgia](#)
- [Graft-versus-host disease](#)
- [Herpes Zoster](#)
- [Hypercalcemia of Malignancy](#)
- [Immunosuppression](#)
- [Iridocyclitis](#)
- [Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)
- [Leukemia](#)
- [Lichen Sclerosus](#)
- [Lymphoma](#)
- [Mycosis Fungoides](#)
- [Neurosarcoidosis](#)
- [Pemphigoid](#)
- [Pharyngitis](#)
- [Psoriasis](#)
- [Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)
- [Seborrheic Dermatitis](#)
- [Skin Rash](#)
- [Systemic Lupus Erythematosus](#)
- [Thrombocytopenia](#)
- [Tuberculosis, Extrapulmonary](#)
- [Ulcerative Colitis](#)
- [Adrenocortical Insufficiency](#)
- [Allergic Reactions](#)
- [Aspiration Pneumonia](#)
- [Atopic Dermatitis](#)
- [Berylliosis](#)
- [Bursitis](#)
- [Cluster Headaches](#)
- [Conjunctivitis, Allergic](#)
- [Dermatitis Herpetiformis](#)
- [Eczema](#)
- [Erythroblastopenia](#)
- [Gouty Arthritis](#)
- [Hay Fever](#)
- [Herpes Zoster Iridocyclitis](#)
- [Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura](#)
- [Inflammatory Conditions](#)
- [Iritis](#)
- [Keratitis](#)
- [Lichen Planus](#)
- [Loeffler's Syndrome](#)
- [Multiple Sclerosis](#)
- [Nephrotic Syndrome](#)
- [Osteoarthritis](#)
- [Pemphigus](#)
- [Polymyositis/Dermatomyositis](#)
- [Psoriatic Arthritis](#)
- [Sarcoidosis](#)
- [Sinusitis](#)
- [Synovitis](#)
- [Systemic Sclerosis](#)
- [Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis](#)
- [Tuberculous Meningitis](#)
- [Uveitis, Posterior](#)

## Where can I get more information?

- Your pharmacist can provide more information about prednisone.

 [Printable Version](#)  [Email](#) [Recommend](#)  [Tweet](#)  [Save or Share](#)

[Ads by Google](#)[Allergic Asthma](#)

Do you suffer from allergic asthma? Learn about a treatment option.

[www.LivingWithAllergicAsthma.com](http://www.LivingWithAllergicAsthma.com)[RA Medication Information](#)

Learn about an exciting development in rheumatoid arthritis meds.

[MoreRAinfo.com](#)

- Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.
- Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided by Cerner Multum, Inc. ('Multum') is [accurate](#), up-to-date, and complete, but no guarantee is made to that effect. Drug information contained herein may be time sensitive. Multum information has been compiled for use by healthcare practitioners and consumers in the United States and therefore Multum does not warrant that uses outside of the United States are appropriate, unless specifically indicated otherwise. Multum's drug information does not endorse drugs, diagnose patients or recommend therapy. Multum's drug information is an informational resource designed to assist licensed healthcare practitioners in caring for their patients and/or to serve consumers viewing this service as a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the expertise, skill, knowledge and judgment of healthcare practitioners. The absence of a warning for a given drug or drug combination in no way should be construed to indicate that the drug or drug combination is safe, effective or appropriate for any given patient. Multum does not assume any responsibility for any aspect of healthcare administered with the aid of information Multum provides. The information contained herein is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, warnings, drug interactions, allergic reactions, or adverse effects. If you have questions about the drugs you are taking, check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Copyright 1996-2011 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 7.01. Revision Date: 2/8/2011 6:32:06 PM.

Search

[Ads by Google](#) [Alcohol Rehab](#) [Alcohol Center](#) [Alcohol Rehab](#) [Alcohol Rehab](#)

Support

[Advertise With Us](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
[Pharmaceutical Companies](#)  
[Widgets for your Website](#)  
[Content Submissions](#)  
[About Drugs.com](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Sitemap](#)

Follow us on:  

About Drugs.com

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines & natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not to be used for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

Data sources include Micromedex™ (updated Feb 3rd, 2011), Cerner Multum™ (updated Mar 18th, 2011), Wolters Kluwer™ (updated Mar 5th, 2011) and others. To view content sources and attributions, refer to our [editorial policy](#).

Copyright © 2000-2011 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.

Your Privacy



We comply with the HONcode standard for trustworthy health information.  
[Verify here](#)



Ad Choices

[Terms of Use](#) · [Privacy Policy](#)

(web3)