Arroyo Grande Community Hospital
A Dignity Health Member

If you have any questions, **please consult your physician or call AGCH Coastal Cancer Care at 805.481.7245. For emergency, call 911.**

PATIENT EDUCATION

Megace (Megestrol Acetate)

SIDE EFFECTS

It is important for the patient to follow all prescription instructions carefully. You may experience some, all, or none of the following:

- **Fluid Retention –** You may notice puffiness in your ankles and hands and an overall weight gain. If your ankles are swollen, you should elevate them as much as possible. Your weight should be monitored.
- **Increased Appetite –** You may notice an increase in your appetite and fatty tissue. Your medication changes the breakdown of fats contained in your food. Once your treatment is over, your fat deposits may return to normal.
- **Effects of the Liver –** Your skin may turn slightly yellow as well as the whites of your eyes. These effects are temporary and usually subside a few weeks after the drug is discontinued. These symptoms occur because the drug is broken down in the liver.
- **Mild Nausea –** May occur.
- **Fatigue –** May occur.
- **Weight Gain –** because of increased appetite.
- **Breakthrough Bleeding**
- **Backache/Headache**

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience:

- Yellowing of the skin or eyes
- Increase in nausea or fatigue
- Sudden or severe fluid retention
- Shortness of breath with exertion or coughing
- Pain/swelling/area of redness in legs

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures –** are necessary during and for 4 months after taking this drug.
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure to tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**