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

Prednisone

SIDE EFFECTS

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

- **Stomach Irritation –** You may notice a gnawing, burning, or indigestion-like pain in your upper stomach. This can be avoided or decreased by **taking this pill with food.**
- **High Blood Sugar –** May occur. You may notice an increase in thirst and frequency of urination; increased fatigue and drowsiness. More common with diabetics. May require dose adjustments with Insulin or oral medications.
- **Trouble Sleeping/Restlessness –** This is temporary and will go away after you stop taking this medicine. Of possible, take pills in the morning or early afternoon.
- **Weight Gain –** Medicine causes you to retain some extra fluid, you may notice swelling of your ankles, feet, and hands. Facial fullness. This will go away once you stop the drug.
- **Increased Appetite**

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Frequent or persistent stomach irritation, heartburn, and indigestion.
- Frequent or persistent feelings of depression, other concerns about the way you are feeling or acting or severe mood swings.
- Blood in stools or black-tarry stools.
- Dizziness, blurred vision, frequent urination, excessive thirst.
- **If you are diabetic, you must tell your nurse or doctor BEFORE starting this medication.**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- It is very important to take this medication **EXACTLY** as instructed. Do not change dosage or times without consulting your doctor.
- Make sure family members are aware of potential side effects to help them better understand and support your treatment.
- Avoid using Echinacea or Ginseng (herbal supplements) while taking this drug as both may interfere with your immune response to this medication.