

New-look prednisolone tablets

Information for patients

Changes to your prednisolone tablets

If you are taking prednisolone tablets, you will soon notice a change in their appearance. The tablets you take at the moment are likely to have a shiny, coloured enteric coating - for example, the 5mg tablets are red and 2.5mg are brown.

The new tablets you will be prescribed in future will not have this coating and are likely to be plain white. The reason for this change is explained in this leaflet.

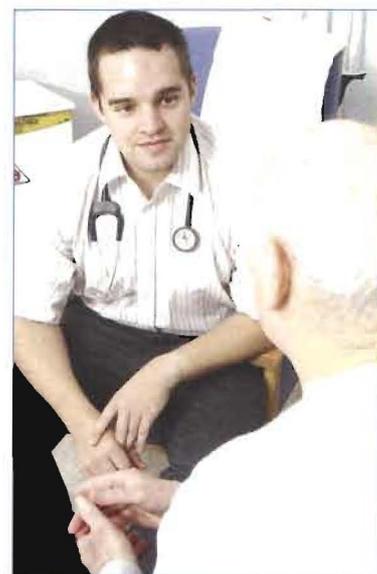
What is the difference between enteric-coated tablets and plain tablets?

Enteric coating stops a tablet dissolving in the stomach. It can then move further along the digestive system to the intestine and be absorbed into the body there.

The plain white tablets will not have this coating and will be absorbed through the stomach and intestine. They are absorbed more quickly and more completely than the enteric-coated ones. The white tablets may have a marking on them which could be different, depending on which brand you have been given.

Why are my prednisolone tablets being changed?

It was thought that coating the tablets might reduce irritation of the stomach. However, research shows there is little difference between the coated tablets and the plain ones with regard to stomach irritation. Dorset clinicians have compared both types of tablets and found the plain white ones to be as effective for patients as enteric ones while costing less.



Will I experience any effects from changing to plain tablets?

You are unlikely to notice any difference when changing to the new tablets. However, as they are absorbed differently, talk to your GP or hospital consultant if you notice any changes as they may need to alter the strength of tablets prescribed.

Who should I contact for further supplies of plain tablets?

If you require ongoing treatment with prednisolone then your GP will be asked to supply you with plain tablets. All GPs in Dorset have been advised of the recommendations to change.