

# PRISTINAMYCIN

Pristinamycin is an antibiotic reserved to treat infections caused by bacteria that cannot be treated with other antibiotics. It will not work against viral infections such as colds or flu.

Reason for antibiotic:	
Planned duration:	
My doctor's name:	
Doctor's contact details:	

## How do I take pristinamycin?

- Pristinamycin works best if taken **with or soon after food**.
- Swallow tablets whole with a glass of water.

## What do I need to be aware of before I take pristinamycin?

- Discuss any **pre-existing medical conditions** with your doctor.
- Discuss **other medicines you are currently taking or plan to start taking** (including herbal and over-the-counter medicines) with your doctor and/or pharmacist. This is to ensure pristinamycin is safe to take together with your current medicines.
- **Pregnancy and breastfeeding:** Limited information is available. Discuss with your doctor if you are or are planning to become pregnant or breastfeeding during your antibiotic course.

The information contained in this brochure is for educational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for consultation with a doctor or health care professional. Ask your pharmacist or doctor if you have any additional questions or would like more detailed information about this medicine. **Last reviewed:** 30th October 2023 | **Next review** by November 2026.

**Acknowledgement:** The Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacists and RMH Guidance Group Project Officers

## Common side effects of pristinamycin:

- **Nausea and vomiting;** usually mild and improves over a few days.
- **Diarrhoea;** usually improves over a few days. If diarrhoea occurs, avoid anti-diarrhoeal medicines such as loperamide (the active ingredient in Imodium® or Gastro-Stop®), unless advised by your doctor. See your doctor if you have frequent and watery diarrhoea.

## Rare reactions and/or side effects of pristinamycin to be aware of:

- **Allergic reactions such as a rash, itch, blisters or red skin spots;** stop taking this medicine and see your doctor.
- **Signs of a serious allergic reaction,** such as difficulty breathing or swelling of the face, eyes or lips; call for an ambulance immediately OR present to the accident and emergency department at your nearest hospital immediately.
- **Changes in liver and kidney function;** signs of liver problems include loss of appetite, severe nausea or vomiting, dark urine, pale stools and yellowing of the eyes or skin. During prolonged treatment, your doctor may request a blood test to check your liver and/or kidney function.

## Where do I obtain my supply of pristinamycin?

- Pristinamycin is usually dispensed by your **hospital pharmacy department**; it may not be readily available from community pharmacies.
- If you are running out of pristinamycin and your course is meant to continue for longer, contact your prescribing doctor at the hospital for another prescription.