Primidone
(Mysoline, Neurosyn)

**Common Drug Name**
Primidone

**Common Brand Names**
Mysoline, Neurosyn

Generic products are available.

**Storage**
Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container. Protect oral suspension from light and freezing.

**Uses**
Used for long-term control of seizures and epilepsy in dogs. Primidone is converted into phenobarbital in the body.

**Dose and Administration**
Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Blood tests are used to monitor the level of the drug in the blood. It may take a week for the level of the drug in the blood to stabilize after a dose change.

It is usually necessary to treat for the lifetime of the pet.

Record the date, time, severity, length, and circumstances of any seizure your pet has while taking primidone, and provide this information to your veterinarian.

**IMPORTANT:** Do NOT miss a dose. Missing a dose could cause a seizure. If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

**Possible Side Effects**
May see tiredness or anxiety and agitation when beginning treatment. This usually is short-term. Contact your veterinarian if these effects do no get better with time.

May see depression, sedation, staggering or an increase in drinking, urinating, and eating. Less commonly may see loss of appetite, increased heart rate, skin disease, and hyperventilation.

Primidone can be toxic to the liver. Signs include jaundice (yellowing of the gums, skin, or eyes); anemia, with weakness and pale gums; or low platelets, with an increased tendency to bruise or bleed.

Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of the above side effects.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

**Precautions**
Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to primidone, phenobarbital, or other barbiturates.

Use with extreme caution in animals who have liver disease. Use with caution in animals who are dehydrated or anemic, or who have heart or lung disease, kidney disease, or Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism).

Do not use in breeding, pregnant, or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the laboratory testing necessary prior to, and during, treatment with primidone.

Not for use in cats due to increased toxicity in this species.

**Drug, Food and Test Interactions**
Consult your veterinarian before using primidone with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, other central nervous system (CNS) depressants such as narcotics or antihistamines; valproic acid, oral anticoagulants (blood thinners, warfarin), chloramphenicol, corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone, dexamethasone), doxycycline, griseofulvin (used to treat ringworm), beta-blockers (propranolol), quinidine, theophylline, and metronidazole, phenytoin, rifampin, furosemide, and oral acetazolamide, since interactions may occur.

Oral acetazolamide may decrease the absorption of primidone.

In a chemistry panel, certain enzymes produced by the liver are often elevated, especially in dogs taking primidone.

Primidone may affect the results of thyroid testing.

**Signs of Toxicity/Overdose**
May see staggering, nystagmus (eyes wiggle back and forth), loss of appetite, vomiting, jaundice (e.g., yellow gums, skin, eyes), sedation, decreased breathing and heart rates, and coma.

Large overdoses can cause death.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.