



### Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) (Pregnyl®)

#### General:

Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) is a hormone produced by the placenta that supports the normal development of an egg in a woman's ovary and stimulates the release of the egg during ovulation. In women, this medication is used as a way of increasing fertility. In men, the alpha subunit of hCG primarily mimics Luteinizing hormone (LH) which is the hormone released from the pituitary gland that stimulates testosterone production in the testicles. It has a much smaller degree of follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) activity as well. Using hCG can help to stimulate increased testosterone production in men who are not on testosterone replacement therapy. Men on testosterone replacement therapy can use hCG to help resist testicular atrophy in order to try and maintain fertility and mitigate volume loss of the testicles. This medication is lyophilized, which is a fancy way of saying freeze-dried. The medication will be delivered in powdered form and require reconstitution with bacteriostatic water prior to administration.

#### Mechanism:

Alpha subunit mimics male endogenous Luteinizing hormone which acts on receptor in testicular Leydig cells.

#### Dosing:

Dosing varies depending on testosterone administration schedule. Typically, 250-500IU injected subcutaneously 1-2 times per week.

#### Contraindications/Cautions:

Notify your health care provider if you have a known hypersensitivity/allergic reaction to this medication. Men with active prostatic carcinoma or other androgen-sensitive neoplasm should not use

this medication. Like other androgen stimulating medications hCG can cause fluid shifts and retention so men with medical conditions that are sensitive to volume overload such as congestive heart failure, liver failure, and kidney failure should use this medication with caution.

#### Adverse Reactions:

*Serious Reactions:* hypersensitivity reaction or anaphylaxis

*Common Reactions:* fatigue, breast tenderness, headache, mood changes, localized skin irritation

#### Storage:

The dry lyophilized form of this medication should be stored at room temperature between 68° and 77°F. Once the medication has been reconstituted it should be kept refrigerated between 35° and 46°F. Keep away from moisture, heat, and light. Use reconstituted medication within 30 days. Keep out of reach of children. Do not flush unused medications down the toilet or pour down a sink or drain.