## **CALCITRIOL**

(Brand Name: Rocaltrol)

**STRENGTH**: 0.25 and 0.5 microgram capsules, appropriate doses for kidney insufficiency will most likely need to be made by a compounding pharmacy.

**ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION:** ORAL. Works best if given on an empty stomach.

**ACTION OF MEDICATION:** Active Vitamin D Analog. Used in the treatment of low blood calcium states (such as hypoparathyroidism) and also to prevent progression of chronic kidney disease.

MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS REPORTED: There are no common side effects.

**SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS REPORTED:** Elevated blood calcium levels can become a serious problem. Watch for excess thirst or appetite loss. Also watch for signs of low blood calcium (twitching, weakness, stiff or uncoordinated gait, tremors).

**STORAGE:** Store the commercial product at room temperature, away from light. Store any compounded product in accordance with the pharmacy's instructions.

**IF YOU MISS A DOSE:** Do not double up on the next dose. Simply give the medication when it is remembered or pick up with the next dose, allowing at least the proper interval between doses according to the label instructions.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** Monitoring blood calcium levels is important when using this medication. If levels rise too high, calcitriol must be discontinued. Blood phosphate levels must be normalized before beginning calcitriol.

For a more detailed presentation, visit: