What do co-trimoxazole tablets do?
CO-TRIMOXAZOLE (Bactrim®, Septra®, TMP-SMX®) is a combination of two antibiotics, trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole. It is used to treat infections of the urinary tract, middle ear, and respiratory tract (bronchitis). Co-trimoxazole is also used for traveler's diarrhea, and Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia in AIDS or cancer patients. Generic co-trimoxazole tablets are available.

What should my health care professional know before I take co-trimoxazole?
They need to know if you have any of these conditions:
• anemia or other blood disorders
• kidney disease
• liver disease
• porphyria
• glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency
• an unusual or allergic reaction to sulphonamides, furosemide or thiazide diuretics (water pills), or oral (by mouth) diabetes or glaucoma medicines, or any other food or medicine
• pregnant or trying to get pregnant
• breast-feeding

How should I take this medicine?
Take co-trimoxazole by mouth. Follow the directions on the prescription label. Take co-trimoxazole with a full glass of water. Take your doses at regular intervals. Do not take your medicine more often than directed. Finish the full course of medicine prescribed by your prescriber or health care professional even if you feel better.

Contact your pediatrician or health care professional regarding the use of this medicine in children. Special care may be needed.

What if I miss a dose?
If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only that dose. Do not take double or extra doses. You must leave a suitable interval between doses. If you are taking one dose a day and have to take a missed dose, make sure there is at least 10 to 12 hours between doses. If you are taking two doses a day and have to take a missed dose, make sure there is at least 5 to 6 hours between doses.
What other medicines can interact with co-trimoxazole?
• cyclosporine
• dapsone
• digoxin
• doxifilide
• medicines for diabetes
• methenamine
• methotrexate
• metronidazole
• phenytoin
• rifampin
• sulfinpyrazone
• warfarin

Tell your prescriber or health care professional about all other medicines you are taking, including non-prescription medicines, nutritional supplements, or herbal products. Also tell your prescriber or health care professional if you are a frequent user of drinks with caffeine or alcohol, if you smoke, or if you use illegal drugs. These may affect the way your medicine works. Check with your health care professional before stopping or starting any of your medicines.

What side effects may I notice from taking co-trimoxazole?
Elderly patients, and AIDS patients being treated for *Pneumocystis carinii*, are more likely to get serious side effects from co-trimoxazole.
Side effects that you should report to your prescriber or health care professional as soon as possible:
• anemia or other blood disorders
• allergic reactions
• bluish fingernails or lips
• difficulty breathing
• fever or chills, sore throat
• increased sensitivity to the sun or ultraviolet light
• joint aches or pains
• lower back pain
• muscle aches or pains
• pain or difficulty passing urine
• redness, blistering, peeling or loosening of the skin, including inside the mouth
• skin rash, hives, or itching
• unusual bleeding or bruising
• unusual weakness or tiredness
• yellowing of the eyes or skin

Side effects that usually do not require medical attention (report to your prescriber or health care professional if they continue or are bothersome):
• diarrhea
• dizziness
• headache
• loss of appetite
• nausea, vomiting

What do I need to watch for while I take co-trimoxazole?
Tell your prescriber or health care professional if your symptoms do not improve in 2 to 3 days.

You may get dizzy. Do not drive, use machinery, or do anything that needs mental alertness until you know how co-trimoxazole affects you.

Keep out of the sun, or wear protective clothing outdoors and use a sunscreen. Do not use sun lamps or sun tanning beds or booths.

Drink several glasses of water a day. This will help to reduce possible kidney problems.

Where can I keep my medicine?
Keep out of the reach of children in a container that small children cannot open.

Store at room temperature between 15 and 25 degreesC (59 and 77 degreesF). Protect from light and moisture. Throw away any unused medicine after the expiration date.

NOTE: This information is not intended to cover all possible uses, precautions, interactions, or adverse effects for this drug. If you have questions about the drug(s) you are taking, check with your health care professional.