Abiraterone Acetate (Zytiga®)
(“a bir A ter one  AS e tate”)

**How drug is given:** By mouth

**Purpose:** To treat prostate cancer

**How to take this drug**

1. Take this medication on an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after food).

2. Swallow tablets whole with a full glass of water, do not crush or chew tablets.

3. Abiraterone can interfere with many drugs, which may change how this works in your body. Talk with your doctor before starting any new drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, natural products, herbals or vitamins.

4. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. **Do not double dose.**

5. Wash hands after taking the medication. Avoid handling crushed or broken tablets.

**Storage and disposal**

- Store at room temperature, away from heat and moisture. Keep this medicine in its original container, out of the reach of children and pets.

- If you have unused oral chemotherapy pills (tablets or capsules), please return to the pharmacy where the prescription was filled. Do not flush down the toilet, dump in the sink or throw away in the trash.

**Things that may occur during treatment**

1. Your body may not be able to get rid of extra fluid. This is called edema. You may notice some swelling in your arms or legs.

2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur after the drug is given. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You may buy this at most drug stores. It is also important to drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help, tell your doctor or nurse.
3. You may feel pain or weakness in your joints or muscles. This may happen about 2 to 3 days after you get abiraterone (Zytiga®). If these bother you, ask your doctor or nurse what type of drugs you may use to help with this pain.

4. Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, let your doctor or nurse know right away.

5. You may experience hot flushes or warmth/redness that comes on suddenly.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.

Managing your oral chemotherapy schedule at home can be challenging. To help you with this, consider using tools to help you keep track of your schedule and any side effects you may have. You can find these tools online at www.dana-farber.org/OralChemoDiary.