**Mesna (Mesnex®)**
(“MES na”)

**How drug is given:** By vein (IV) or by mouth

**Purpose:** Helps protect the bladder from being damaged by ifosfamide or cyclophosphamide

**Things that may occur early in treatment**

1. Mesna, as with most drugs, may cause an allergic reaction. If you have a rash, facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), or itching during or after you get this drug, please **tell your doctor or nurse right away**.

2. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur (after the drug is given) (within a few days after the drug is started). 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 get a headache. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about what you can take for this.

4. If you are taking this drug as a liquid by mouth, this will taste bad. You may want to add this drug to cranberry juice, orange juice, grape juice, or a cola to cover the taste.

*These are some of the possible side effects of mesna. The side effects listed 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 are taking other medications. Please speak with your doctor or nurse if you have any questions.*

**THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY:**

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