**How drug is given:** injection into the vein (IV) or muscle (IM)

**Purpose:** to kill cancer cells in leukemia

**Things that may occur during or within hours of each treatment**

1. Facial flushing (warmth or redness of the face), itching, or a skin rash could occur after taking pegaspargase. These symptoms are due to an allergic response and should be reported to your doctor or nurse right away.

2. You may have nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite. Nausea and vomiting may begin soon after the drug is given and may last more than 24 hours. You may be given medication to help with this.

3. Fever and headaches may occur. Your nurse or physician may instruct you to take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) if these symptoms occur. **Notify your doctor or nurse if your temperature rises above 100.5 degrees and lasts longer than 24 hours.**

**Things that may occur a few days to weeks later**

1. Your liver may be affected by this drug. In such cases the skin may turn yellow and a yellow tinge to the whites of the eyes may develop. You may have pain on your right side and may feel tired. Please **tell your doctor or nurse right away** if you experience any of these side effects.

2. Inflammation of the pancreas is **rare**, but may occur. Let your nurse or physician know if you develop stomach pain and/or vomiting or if increased thirst, urination, and appetite occur.

3. This drug may increase your blood sugar level which may require that you receive insulin. Normal blood sugar levels usually return after treatment is stopped.

4. Some or all of your hair may fall out around 3 to 4 weeks after treatment starts. You may lose hair on your head as well as facial and body hair. You may want to buy a wig before hair loss begins. Hair may grow back during treatment.

5. Skin changes such as dryness or a rash on your body may occur. Ask your doctor or nurse what lotions or creams you may use.
Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

- Fertility and Related Precautions
  - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could hurt an unborn baby.
  - Women should not breast-feed while receiving this drug.
  - If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

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.

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