**How drug is given:** By mouth

**Purpose:** To stop the growth of cancer cells in melanoma and other cancers

**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 each tablet whole; do not crush or chew them. If you have trouble swallowing the tablet, the pharmacist will give you specific instructions.

3. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is within 12 hours of your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. **Do not double dose.**

4. Keep the medication in its original bottle. Do not place tablets in a pill box.

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

**Storage**

1. Store this medicine in the refrigerator, away from heat and moisture. Keep this medicine in its original container, out of the reach of children and pets.

2. If you have unused oral chemotherapy tablets, please return them 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. Skin changes such as dryness, redness, itchiness or a rash on your body may occur. Ask your doctor or nurse what lotions or creams you may use.

2. The palms of your hands or the soles of your feet may become red and painful. This is called hand-foot syndrome. Tingling and peeling of the skin may occur. Avoid tight fitting shoes. Use thick (moisturizing) creams on hands and feet.
3. You may get mouth sores after this drug is given. It is important to keep your mouth clean. A soft-bristle toothbrush should be used for brushing your teeth. You may have a burning feeling and redness inside the mouth or on the lips. Use baking soda mouth rinse 4 to 5 times a day.

Mouth Rinse Recipe:
Mix: 1 tsp salt or baking soda with 8 oz. glass of water

Other mouth rinses may be ordered by your doctor. Do not use mouth washes that have alcohol in them because they will dry out the mouth. If you cannot eat or swallow because of this, let your doctor or nurse know. Check with your doctor before having any dental work done.

4. You may have changes in your eyesight which include blurred vision or changes in how you see color. Eye exams may be done.

5. If you develop a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, report this to your doctor or nurse.

6. 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.

7. You may be at increased risk for bleeding, such as nose bleeds or blood in your urine or stool. If you have a nose bleed, sit with your head tipped slightly forward and apply pressure by lightly pinching the bridge of your nose between the thumb and forefinger. Call your doctor if you feel dizzy or faint or if the bleeding does not stop in 10-15 minutes.

8. 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.

9. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur after the drug is taken. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D) to help control diarrhea. You may buy this at most drug stores. It is important to drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help, tell your doctor or nurse.

10. Nail changes can occur, such as dark lines or changes in color. Nails may become more brittle. It is possible your nail could fall off. Nails usually return to normal after treatment is finished. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you notice these changes.

11. Fertility and Related Precautions:
- It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could be harmful to 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.

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.