Denosumab (Xgeva®)
(“den-OH-sue-mab”)

How drug is given: Subcutaneously (injection under the skin)

Purpose(s):
- To help prevent painful bone fractures
- To treat high calcium levels related to solid tumors
- To treat giant cell cancer

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment
- During treatment, you may experience back pain or backache. Tell your cancer care team if this pain becomes bothersome or interferes with any of your daily activities.

Things that may occur a few days to weeks later
1. This medicine may cause a low calcium blood level. You may be asked to take calcium and vitamin D supplements.
2. Before you have any dental procedures, tell your dentist you take denosumab. Report persistent pain in the jaw or slow healing in the mouth after dental surgery. Rarely, a breakdown of the jaw bone may occur, this is called osteonecrosis.
3. Some patients may feel very weak or tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also help you maintain your energy.
4. 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.
5. You may get a headache. Please talk to your cancer care team about what you can take for this.
6. You may have nausea, vomiting, and/or loss of appetite. You may be given medicine to help.

Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

Fertility:
- It is important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
- Continue using birth control for 5 months after the last dose.
• Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug.
• If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. 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 cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team about your treatment and side effects you may experience during and after treatment.

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

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