



## Filgrastim (Neupogen<sup>®</sup>, G-CSF)

("fil-GRA-stim")

## Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta<sup>®</sup>, Peg G-CSF)

("peg-fil-GRA-stim")

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

**Purpose:** Helps fight off the risk of infection by increasing the number of white blood cells in the body

### Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. Burning, itching, redness, or swelling at the injection site may occur. These reactions are usually mild and go away. Applying a cold pack to the area may help.
2. Flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, headache, muscle and/or joint aches, may occur 30 minutes to 2 hours after the injection. If these occur, your doctor may suggest taking acetaminophen (Tylenol<sup>®</sup>) to help control the symptoms. Please let your cancer care team know if acetaminophen (Tylenol) does not help, since other medications may be prescribed.

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

1. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may also help you maintain your energy.
2. Bone pain may occur because the drug is working inside your bones. Tylenol or other pain relievers may help.

### Storage

- Store these medications in the refrigerator.

*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: