Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta™)  
On-body Injector

What is Pegfilgrastim and how does it work?

Pegfilgrastim also called Neulasta™ is a medicine given to help your body make more white blood cells. White blood cells (WBCs) help your body fight infection. When getting chemotherapy, your WBC count can drop below normal. This condition is known as neutropenia. A low WBC puts you at a higher risk for infection. You may be given Pegfilgrastim after chemotherapy to help increase your WBC count, lower your risk for infection, and help your WBCs recover in time for your next chemotherapy treatment.

What is the “on-body injector”?

The on-body injector is a small, lightweight, waterproof, battery-powered device that is put on the skin of your upper arm or belly. During your chemotherapy treatment, your nurse will put the device on you to wear when you leave. About 27 hours after the device is put on, the on-body injector will slowly infuse the medicine into your body. This infusion takes about 45 minutes. After the medicine has been delivered, and the light on the device is a solid green, you may remove the on-body injector.

How will my doctor decide if I need Pegfilgrastim?

To determine if you need this medicine and the amount, your doctor will review the following:

• Your age
• Your weight
• The type of cancer you have

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

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What are the common side effects of this medicine?

- Bone pain which may last for several days. Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about what you can take to help with the pain.
- Joint and muscle pain
- Headache
- Mild swelling in your arms or legs

When to call my doctor?

- If the on-body injector falls off your skin (please bring the on-body injector with you when you return to the clinic)
- If a flashing red light appears on the on-body injector
- If the adhesive pad feels dripping wet and you think the device is leaking

Call your doctor right away and get medical care if you have:

- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Swelling of the face, lips or throat
- Hives or skin rash
- Severe pain, blistering, redness or swelling at the injection site
- Sudden pain on the left side of your belly
- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher
Other important information you should know about the on-body injector:

- The first time that you get pegfilgrastim using the on-body injector, a caregiver should be with you while the medicine is being infused. This will begin about 27 hours after the on-body injector was put on you.

- A **flashing** green light means the on-body injector is working properly.

- The on-body injector will beep before the medicine begins infusing, and again when it is done. The on-body injector should read “empty” when all the medicine has been delivered. A solid green light means the medicine infusion is done. Make sure the fill line is on “empty” before you remove the on-body injector.

- Keep the on-body injector at least 4 inches away from cell phones, cordless phones, microwaves, appliances, or other electrical devices. Do not have x-rays or scans while wearing the on-body injector.

- Do not use hot tubs or saunas, or be exposed to prolonged direct sunlight while wearing the on-body injector.

- Keep the injector dry for at least 3 hours before the dose is scheduled to start.

- Do not get body lotions, creams, oils or cleaning agents near the on-body injector. These products may loosen the adhesive on the device.

- Do not bump or apply direct pressure to, or sleep on the device.

- The on-body injector is for one-time use only. Once it is removed, the device should never be re-applied.

- Throw away the on-body injector in a metal container or a hard plastic container such as an empty detergent bottle or a special sharps container, that can be sealed. Once the container is full, close and tape the lid shut before placing it in the trash. **Keep this container away from children and pets at all times.**
My healthcare provider’s phone number is ______________________

My Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta™) on-body injector was applied:

Day (Date): _______________
Time (AM/PM): ____________

My Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta™) dose delivery will start around:

Day (Date): _______________
Time (AM/PM): ____________