

# Pegfilgrastim

**Care Team Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pharmacy Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Diagnosis:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Pegfilgrastim is used to stimulate the growth of neutrophils (NOO-troh-fils), a type of white blood cell important in the body's fight against infection.
- Pegfilgrastim is often used for people with cancer receiving anti-cancer medicines that can cause fever and a low blood cell count.
- Pegfilgrastim may also be used for other reasons.

**Goal of Treatment:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Treatment Regimen

| Treatment Name   | How the Treatment Works                             | How the Treatment is Given  |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Pegfilgrastim (peg-fil-GRAS-tim):</p> <p><i>Prefilled Syringe:</i> Neulasta (noo-LA-stuh), Fulphila, Fylnetra, Nyvepria, Stimufend, Udenyca, Ziextenzo</p> <p><i>On-Body Injector:</i> Neulasta Onpro, Udencya Onbody</p> | <p>Helps your body make more white blood cells.</p> | <p><i>Prefilled Syringe:</i> Injection given under the skin in the stomach area (abdomen), back of your arm, or your upper outer buttocks.</p> <p><i>On-Body Injector:</i> Device that will be applied to the stomach area (abdomen) or back of your arm by your care team.</p> |

**Injection Administration and Schedule:** Pegfilgrastim is typically given once per chemotherapy cycle.

- If you are receiving pegfilgrastim because you are also receiving chemotherapy, your last pegfilgrastim injection should be at least 14 days before your chemotherapy starts
- Do not get pegfilgrastim within 24 hours after your dose of chemotherapy.

Review this section if your care team decides that **pegfilgrastim injections** can be **given at home** by you or your caregiver:

## *General Information*

- See the detailed “Instructions for Use” that comes with your prescription for information on how to prepare and inject a dose.
- You and your caregiver should be shown how to prepare and inject pegfilgrastim before you use it. Talk with your care team.
- If you miss a dose of pegfilgrastim, talk to your care team about when you should give your next dose.

## *Storage Information*

- Store pegfilgrastim in the refrigerator between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C).
- Take pegfilgrastim out of the refrigerator for at least 15 to 30 minutes before use and allow it to reach room temperature before preparing an injection.
- Avoid freezing. Some products may be used if accidentally frozen. Talk with your care team.
- Keep the prefilled syringe in the original carton to protect from light or physical damage.
- Do not shake the prefilled syringe.
- Throw away (dispose of) any pegfilgrastim that has been left at room temperature, 68°F to 95°F (20°C to 35°C), for more than 120 hours.
- Keep the pegfilgrastim prefilled syringe out of the reach of children and pets.

Review this section if you will receive an **on-body injector for pegfilgrastim** (such as Neulasta Onpro or Udecyca Onbody):

## General Information

- See the "Instructions for Use" for the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim for detailed information about the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim and important information about your dose delivery that has been written by your care team.
- Know the time that delivery of your dose of pegfilgrastim is expected to start.
- Avoid traveling, driving, or operating heavy machinery during hour 26 through hour 29 after the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim is applied.
- Avoid activities and places that may interfere with monitoring during the 45-minute period that pegfilgrastim is expected to be delivered by the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim, and for 1 hour after delivery.
- A caregiver should be with you the first time that you receive pegfilgrastim with the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim.
- Before your next scheduled pegfilgrastim dose, avoid using lotions, creams, or oils on your arms and stomach area (abdomen) to help keep the device on your skin.
- If placed on the back of the arm, a caregiver must be available to monitor the status of the on-body injector.
- If you have an allergic reaction during the delivery of pegfilgrastim, remove the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim by grabbing the edge of the adhesive pad and peeling off the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim. Get emergency medical help right away.
- You should only receive a dose of pegfilgrastim on the day your care team tells you.
- You should not receive your dose of pegfilgrastim any sooner than 24 hours after you finish receiving your chemotherapy. The on-body injector for pegfilgrastim is programmed to deliver your dose about 27 hours after your healthcare provider places the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim on your skin.
- Do not expose the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim to the following because the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim may be damaged and you could be injured:
  - Diagnostic imaging (such as a CT Scan, MRI, Ultrasound, X-ray)
  - Radiation treatment
  - Oxygen rich environments, such as hyperbaric chambers
- Avoid airport X-ray scans. Request a manual pat down instead. Use care during a manual pat down to help prevent the on-body injector for Pegfilgrastim from being accidentally removed.
- Keep the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim at least 4 inches away from electrical equipment such as cell phones, cordless telephones, microwaves and other common appliances. If the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim is too close to electrical equipment, it may not work correctly and can lead to a missed or incomplete dose of pegfilgrastim.
- The on-body injector is for adult patients only.
- If your on-body injector is not working properly, you may miss your dose or you may not receive your full dose of pegfilgrastim. If you miss your dose or do not receive your full dose of pegfilgrastim, you may have an increased risk of developing fever or infection.

## General Information (Continued)

- Call your care team right away, as you may need a replacement dose, if any of the following occur:
  - On-body injector for pegfilgrastim comes off before or during a dose delivery. Do not re-apply it.
  - On-body injector for pegfilgrastim is leaking.
  - Adhesive on your on-body injector for pegfilgrastim becomes noticeably wet (saturated) with fluid, or there is dripping. This may mean that Pegfilgrastim is leaking out of your on-body injector for pegfilgrastim. If this happens you may only receive some of your dose of pegfilgrastim, or you may not receive a dose at all.
  - On-body injector for pegfilgrastim status light is flashing red.

## How you will receive the on-body injection for pegfilgrastim:

- Pegfilgrastim is given as an injection under the skin. Your care team will use a prefilled syringe with pegfilgrastim to fill the on-body injector prior to applying it. The prefilled syringe with pegfilgrastim and the on-body injector are provided to your care team as part of on-body injector kit. The on-body injector for pegfilgrastim will be applied to the stomach area (abdomen) or back of your arm by your care team.
- Your care team should place the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim on an area of your skin that does not have swelling, redness, cuts, wounds, or abrasions. Tell your care team about any skin reactions that happen in the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim application area after it has been applied.
- The on-body injector for pegfilgrastim is programmed to deliver your dose about 27 hours after your care team places the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim on your skin.
- The dose of pegfilgrastim will be delivered over about 45 minutes. During dose delivery and for 1 hour after delivery, it is best to stay in a place where you or a caregiver can monitor the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim to make sure you receive your full dose of pegfilgrastim and watch for symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- Your care team will show you how to monitor the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim to make sure delivery has been completed.
- Keep the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim dry for about the last 3 hours before the dose delivery is expected to start. This will help you to better detect possible leaking from the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim.
- Only expose the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim to temperatures between 41°F to 104°F (5°C to 40°C).

## While the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim is in place you should **avoid**:

- Traveling, driving or operating heavy machinery during hour 26 through hour 29 after the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim is applied.
- Sleeping on the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim or applying pressure on the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim. The on-body injector for pegfilgrastim may not work properly.
- Bumping the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim or knocking it off your body.
- Using other materials to hold the on-body injector in place. Using other materials could cover audio or visual indicators or press the on-body injector against your skin, and lead to a missed dose or incomplete dose of pegfilgrastim.
- Getting body lotion, creams, oils, and skin cleansing products near the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim. These products may loosen the adhesive that holds the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim onto your body.
- Using bath tubs, hot tubs, whirlpools, or saunas, and direct sunlight. These may affect pegfilgrastim.
- Peeling off or disturbing the on-body injector for pegfilgrastim adhesive before you receive your full dose of pegfilgrastim.

**Appointments:** Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, injection appointments, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss any appointments, call your care provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

## Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

| Description               | Supportive Care Taken at Home |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| To help prevent bone pain | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>             |

## Common Side Effects

| Side Effect                       | Important Information   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Pain in the Bones, Arms, and Legs | <p><b>Description:</b> After receiving pegfilgrastim, you may experience some bone pain. This happens because the medicine helps your bone marrow produce a lot of new white blood cells, which can cause swelling and soreness. You may feel a dull ache in areas like your hips, thighs, back, or arms. This discomfort usually starts 1 to 2 days after your injection and can last for about 2 to 4 days. In some cases, it may continue for up to a week.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your care team may recommend an anti-histamine (such as loratadine (Claritin)) to prevent and treat bone pain.</li> <li>For some patients, your care team may recommend a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) (such as naproxen (Aleve)) or an alternative pain medicine. Talk with your care team before using these.</li> <li>These medicines are typically taken for 5 to 7 days after you receive pegfilgrastim.</li> </ul> <p><b>Talk to your care team if you have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bone pain lasting more than 7 days</li> <li>Severe bone pain</li> </ul> |

## Select Rare Side Effects

| Side Effect                   | Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Spleen Rupture                | <p>Your spleen may become enlarged and possibly rupture. A ruptured spleen can cause death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pain in the left upper stomach area</li> <li>Pain in your left shoulder</li> </ul>  |
| Lung Problems                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cough</li> <li>Shortness of breath</li> <li>Chest pain</li> </ul>   |
| Sickle Cell Crisis            | <p>If you have a sickle cell disorder and receive filgrastim, you may have a serious sickle cell crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pain</li> <li>Difficulty breathing</li> </ul>  |
| Kidney Injury                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swelling of your face or ankles</li> <li>Blood in your urine or dark-colored urine</li> <li>You urinate less than usual</li> </ul>  |
| Low Platelet Count            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruising easily</li> <li>Frequent nose bleeds</li> <li>Blood in your urine</li> <li>Bood in your spit after a cough</li> </ul>  |
| Capillary Leak Syndrome (CLS) | <p>CLS happens when fluids and proteins leak from your small blood vessels into surrounding tissues. It requires immediate treatment to prevent a drop in blood pressure and other serious complications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swelling or puffiness</li> <li>Urinating less than usual</li> <li>Trouble breathing</li> <li>Swelling of your stomach area (abdomen) and feeling of fullness</li> <li>Dizziness or feeling faint</li> <li>A general feeling of tiredness</li> </ul> |
| Inflammation of the Aorta     | <p>Inflammation of the aorta (the large blood vessel which transports blood from the heart to the body) has been reported in people who received pegfilgrastim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever</li> <li>Abdominal pain</li> <li>Feeling tired</li> <li>Back pain</li> </ul>  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Bone Marrow Problems called Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) or Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) | <p>If you have breast cancer or lung cancer, when pegfilgrastim is used with chemotherapy and radiation therapy, or with radiation therapy alone, you may have an increased risk of developing myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) or acute myeloid leukemia (AML).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weakness</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Frequent infections</li> <li>• Blood in urine or stool</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Feeling very tired</li> <li>• Bruising or bleeding more easily</li> </ul> |
| Allergic Reactions   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rash over your whole body</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Wheezing</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Swelling around your mouth or eyes</li> <li>• Fast heart rate</li> <li>• Sweating</li> </ul>   |

**Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.**  
**If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.**

## Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

- It is not known if pegfilgrastim will harm an unborn baby.
- It is not known if pegfilgrastim passes into breast milk.

## Additional Information

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take.**  
This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**  
Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

## Notes

Updated Date: January 19, 2026

Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.



Important notice: The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources.

This guide does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication and should not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. Provision of this guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, or ONS, who assume no liability for and cannot ensure the accuracy of the information presented. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

Permission: Patient Education Sheets are provided as a free educational resource for patients with cancer and their caregivers in need of concise, easy to understand information about cancer therapy. Healthcare providers are permitted to copy and distribute the sheets to patients as well as direct patients to the Patient Education Sheets website. However, commercial reproduction or reuse, as well as rebranding or reposting of any type, are strictly prohibited without permission of the copyright holders. Permission requests, including direct linking from Electronic Health Records, and licensing inquiries should be emailed to [patienteducationsheets@ncoda.org](mailto:patienteducationsheets@ncoda.org).

Copyright © 2026 by Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. All rights reserved.

PES-549