Arroyo Grande Community Hospital
A Dignity Health Member

If you have any questions, **please consult your physician or call AGCH Coastal Cancer Care at 805.481.7245. For emergency, call 911.**

PATIENT EDUCATION

Carmustin (BCNU)

SIDE EFFECTS

It is important for the patient to follow all prescription instructions carefully. You may experience some, all, or none of the following:

- **Lowered Blood Counts –** This drug can temporarily lower the number of white blood cells and platelets. During this time you are more susceptible to colds, infections, and bleeding. Lab tests may be done to monitor your blood counts.
- **Nausea/Vomiting –** This usually occurs about 2-4 hours after treatment. You will be offered medication to control or prevent this.
- **Vein Discomfort –** The drug may cause discomfort along the vein used for the injection; this can usually be controlled by slowing the rate of the IV. Report any discomfort to your nurse.
- **A Flushed Sensation –** This may occur during the injection, but will subside soon after.
- **Respiratory Changes –** May occur. Changes can include shortness of breath, increased respiratory rate, and/or a non-productive cough. **Tell you doctor or nurse if any of these symptoms occur.**

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if your experience:

- Signs of Infection: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, new or significant cough or shortness of breath, pain or burning with urination, a sore that is red and swollen, white patches in your mouth or on your tongue.
- Signs of Bleeding: Nosebleeds that will not stop with pressure; blood in urine or stool; bleeding gums; unusual bruising; red or purple spots on your body; or a cut that takes longer than usual to stop bleeding.
- Persistent nausea/vomiting
- Shortness of breath, non-productive cough, increased respiratory rate
- Changes in urine output
- Discomfort along vein during infusion
- Flushed sensation with infusion

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Birth Control Measures –** are necessary during and for 4 months after treatment due to potential harm to sperm/egg health.
- **Before any dental procedure, be sure and tell your dentist you are taking this medication.**
- Arrange for someone else to drive you home after receiving this medication.