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

Neulasta (Pegfilgrastim)

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

This medication is given to increase white cell growth after chemotherapy.

SIDE EFFECTS

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

- **Bone Pain –** This discomfort is usually mild to moderate. It is caused by the stimulation of the bone marrow. This pain can occur within a few hours to a few days receiving this drug. It can last from a few hours to a few days. Common sites are the breast bone, lower back, hips, and long bones. Your doctor can recommend a medication to help relieve this symptom.
- **Fatigue –** This symptom often accompanies this treatment, similar to radiation and chemotherapy. Take frequent rest periods.
- **Nausea –** If this is a problem, ask your doctor for medication to help prevent.
- **Changes in Bowel Movements –** May develop constipation or diarrhea.
- **Peripheral Edema –** May have swelling of ankles and lower legs – tell your nurse or doctor if this occurs.

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Notify your doctor or oncology nurse immediately if you experience:

- Signs of Infection: Chills or fever above 100.5°F, significant or new cough or shortness of breath; sudden weakness or fatigue; pain, or burning when you urinate; a cold; a sore that looks infected; white patches in your mouth or tongue; or any other sign of infection.
- Bone pain that is unrelieved by Tylenol.
- Signs of Allergic Reaction: Rash, itching, tickling in throat, difficulty breathing, etc.
- Swelling of ankles or lower legs.
- Nausea/vomiting unrelieved my medication and/or inability to eat or drink for 24 hours.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Take this medication exactly as ordered and be sure and get lab tests as orders.**