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

Neupogen (Filgrastim)

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 of 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.
- **Injection Site Effects** – You may have some redness and irritation at the injection site. This drug is usually given subcutaneously (into the fatty tissue).
- **Rash** – You may develop a rash after receiving this drug. The rash often goes away on its own, but tell your doctor if it is bothersome.

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.
- Redness, swelling, or itching at the site of injection.
- A rash over the whole body, shortness of breath, wheezing, rapid pulse, or sweating.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- **Take this medication exactly as ordered and get lab tests done as ordered.**