

Medication Information Sheet

arsenic trioxide (AR-se-nik tri-OX-ide)

This document provides general information about your medication. It does not replace the advice of your health care professional. Always discuss your therapy with your health care professional and refer to the package insert for more details.

Other Name: Trisenox®

Appearance: clear, colourless solution mixed into larger bags of fluids

What is this medication for?

- For treating a type of leukemia called acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL)

What should I do before I have this medication?

Tell your health care team if you have or had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had:

- heart problems (including irregular heartbeat),
- liver or kidney problems,
- diabetes, or
- any allergies.

Remember to:

- Tell your health care team about all of the other medications you are taking.
- Keep taking other medications that have been prescribed for you, unless you have been told not to by your health care team.

You will have a blood test to check for hepatitis B before starting treatment. See the [Hepatitis B and Cancer Medications](#) pamphlet for more information.

How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

Talk to your health care team about:

- How this medication may affect your sexual health.
- How this medication may affect your ability to have a baby, if this applies to you.

This medication may harm an unborn baby. Tell your health care team if you or your partner are pregnant, become pregnant during treatment, or are breastfeeding.

- If there is **any** chance you may become pregnant, you and your partner together must use **2 effective forms of birth control** at the same time until at least **6 months** after your last dose. Talk to your health care team about which birth control options are best for you.
- If you are a patient that can get somebody pregnant, you and your partner together must use **2 effective forms of birth control** at the same time until at least **3 months** after your last dose. Talk to your health care team about which birth control options are best for you.
- Do not breastfeed while on this medication and for **3 months** after the last dose.

How is this medication given?

- Arsenic trioxide is given through an IV (injected into a vein). Talk to your health care team about your treatment schedule.
- If you missed your treatment appointment, talk to your health care team to find out what to do.
- Each dose is usually given over 1 to 2 hours, but may last longer if reactions like flushing or dizziness happen.

What else do I need to know while on this medication?

- **Will this medication interact with other medications or natural health products?**
 - This medication can interact with other medications, vitamins, foods and natural health products. Interactions can make the treatment not work as well or cause severe side effects.
 - Tell your health care team about all of your:
 - prescription and over-the-counter (non-prescription) medications and all other drugs, such as cannabis/marijuana (medical or recreational)
 - natural health products such as vitamins, herbal teas, homeopathic medicines, and other supplements

- Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- **What should I do if I feel unwell, have pain, a headache or a fever?**
 - **Always** check your temperature to see if you have a fever **before** taking any medications for fever or pain (such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®)).
 - Fever can be a sign of infection that may need treatment right away.
 - If you take these medications before you check for fever, they may lower your temperature and you may not know you have an infection.

How to check for fever:

Keep a digital (electronic) thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills, headache, mild pain).

- You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:
 - 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time
- OR
- 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.

If you do have a fever:

- **Try to contact your health care team. If you are not able to talk to them for advice, you MUST get emergency medical help right away.**
- Ask your health care team for the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.

If you do not have a fever but have mild symptoms such as headache or mild pain:

- Ask your health care team about the right medication for you. **Acetaminophen (Tylenol®)** is a safe choice for most people.
- **Talk to your health care team before you start taking** ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or ASA (Aspirin®), as they may increase your chance of bleeding or interact with your cancer treatment.
- Talk to your health care team if you already take **low dose aspirin** for a medical condition (such as a heart problem). It may still be safe to take.

What to DO while on this medication:

- DO check with your health care team before getting any vaccinations, surgery, dental work or other medical procedures.
- DO tell your health care team about any serious infections that you have now or have had in the past.
- DO tell your health care team if you have or have had low Vitamin B1 (thiamine) levels.
- DO tell your health care team if you have any new pain, numbness or tingling of your hands or feet. This is especially important if you are having trouble doing tasks (like doing up buttons, writing, walking) or if you have severe pain or numbness.
- DO talk to your health care team about your risk of getting other cancers or heart problems from this treatment.

What NOT to DO while on this medication:

- DO NOT smoke or drink alcohol while on treatment without talking to your health care team first. Smoking and drinking can make side effects worse and make your treatment not work as well.

What are the side effects of this medication?

The following table lists side effects that you may have when getting arsenic trioxide. The table is set up to list the most common side effects first and the least common last. It is unlikely that you will have all of the side effects listed and you may have some that are not listed.

Read over the side effect table so that you know what to look for and when to get help. Refer to this table if you experience any side effects while on arsenic trioxide.

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Nausea and vomiting</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea is feeling like you need to throw up. You may also feel light-headed. • You may feel nausea within hours to days after your treatment. 	<p>Talk to your healthcare team if nausea lasts more than 48 hours or vomiting lasts more than 24 hours or if it is severe.</p>

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>What to do?</p> <p>To help prevent nausea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is easier to prevent nausea than to treat it once it happens. • Take your anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed, even if you do not feel like throwing up. • Drink clear liquids and have small meals. Get fresh air and rest. • Do not eat spicy, fried foods or foods with a strong smell. • Limit caffeine (like coffee, tea) and avoid alcohol. <p>If you have nausea or vomiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take your rescue (as-needed) anti-nausea medication(s) as prescribed. • Ask your health care team for the Nausea & Vomiting pamphlet for more information. • Talk to your health care team if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ nausea lasts more than 48 hours ◦ vomiting lasts more than 24 hours or if it is severe 	
<p>Fatigue</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling of tiredness or low energy that lasts a long time and does not go away with rest or sleep. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be active. Aim to get 30 minutes of moderate exercise (you are able to talk comfortably while exercising) on most days. • Check with your health care team before starting any new exercise. • Pace yourself, do not rush. Put off less important activities. Rest when you need to. • Ask family or friends to help you with things like housework, shopping, and child or pet care. • Eat well and drink at least 6 to 8 glasses of water or other liquids every day (unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less). • Avoid driving or using machinery if you are feeling tired. <p>Ask your health care team for the Fatigue pamphlet for more information.</p>	Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Cough and feeling short of breath</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may have a cough and feel short of breath. • Symptoms that commonly occur with a cough are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Wheezing or a whistling breathing ◦ Runny nose ◦ Sore throat ◦ Heartburn ◦ Weight loss ◦ Fever and chills • Rarely this may be severe with chest pain, trouble breathing or coughing up blood. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your temperature to see if you have a fever. Read the above section "What should I do if I feel unwell, have pain, a headache or a fever?". • If you have a fever, try to talk to your health care team. If you are not able to talk to them for advice, you MUST get emergency medical help right away. • If you have a severe cough with chest pain, trouble breathing or you are coughing up blood, get medical help right away. 	<p>Talk to your health care team. If you are not able to talk to your health care team for advice, and you have a fever or severe symptoms, you MUST get emergency medical help right away.</p>
<p>Diarrhea</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose, watery, unformed stool (poo) that may happen days to weeks after you get your treatment. <p>What to do?</p> <p>If you have diarrhea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take anti-diarrhea medication if your health care team prescribed it or told you to take it. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if no improvement after 24 hours of taking diarrhea medication or if severe (more than 7 times in one day).</p>

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not eat foods or drinks with artificial sweetener (like chewing gum or 'diet' drinks), coffee and alcohol. Eat many small meals and snacks instead of 2 or 3 large meals. Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day, unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less. Talk to your health care team if you can't drink 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day when you have diarrhea. You may need to drink special liquids with salt and sugar, called Oral Rehydration Therapy. Talk to your health care team if your diarrhea does not improve after 24 hours of taking diarrhea medication or if you have diarrhea more than 7 times in one day. <p>Ask your health care team for the Diarrhea pamphlet for more information.</p>	
<p>Headache; Mild joint, muscle pain or cramps</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild headache New pain in your muscles or joints, muscle cramps, or feeling achy. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take pain medication (acetaminophen or opioids such as codeine, morphine, hydromorphone, oxycodone) as prescribed. Read the above section: "What should I do if I feel unwell, have pain, a headache or a fever?" before taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®), ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or Aspirin. These medications may hide an infection that needs treatment or they may increase your risk of bleeding. Rest often and try light exercise (such as walking) as it may help. <p>Ask your health care team for the Pain pamphlet for more information.</p>	Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.
<p>Fast or irregular heartbeat</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may have a fast or irregular heartbeat, shortness of breath, chest pain or fainting spells. 	Get emergency medical help right away.

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get emergency medical help right away. 	
<p>Too much or too little salt in your body</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscle spasms, cramping, weakness, twitching, or convulsions. • Irregular heartbeat, confusion or blood pressure changes. <p>What to do?</p> <p>Get emergency medical help right away for severe symptoms.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away for severe symptoms.</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Higher than normal white blood cells (lymphocytes) in the blood</p> <p>You may have higher white blood cell levels in the blood. This can happen in the first few weeks of treatment and may last for a few weeks or months.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High white blood cell levels usually do not cause any symptoms. • In severe but rare cases, you may have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ fever ◦ breathing problems ◦ severe headache ◦ trouble walking ◦ fatigue 	<p>Get emergency medical help right away for severe symptoms.</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your health care team will do a blood test to check your white blood cell levels before and during your treatment. <p>Get emergency medical help right away for severe symptoms.</p>	
<p>Swelling in your arms or legs</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may have mild swelling or puffiness in your arms and/or legs. Rarely, this may be severe. <p>What to do?</p> <p>To help prevent swelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat a low-salt diet. <p>If you have swelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear loose-fitting clothing. For swollen legs or feet, keep your feet up when sitting. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>
<p>High blood sugar</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may feel thirsty. You may pee more often than usual. You may feel tired or sleepy. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your health care team may do a blood test to check your blood sugar level. You may be told to change your diet or given medication to lower your blood sugar. If you have diabetes, check your blood sugar regularly. Your health care team may ask you to check it more often than usual. 	<p>Talk to your health care team as soon as possible.</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Rash; dry, itchy skin (may be severe)</p> <p>Darkening of the skin (rare)</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may have cracked, rough, flaking or peeling areas of the skin. • Your skin may look red and feel warm, like a sunburn. • Your skin may itch, burn, sting or feel very tender when touched. • Your skin may turn darker than normal. <p>What to do?</p> <p>To prevent and treat dry skin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use fragrance-free skin moisturizer. • Protect your skin from the sun and the cold. • Use sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection and a SPF of at least 30. • Avoid perfumed products and lotions that contain alcohol. • Drink 6 to 8 cups of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated liquids each day, unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less. • Talk to your health care team if darkening of your skin is bothersome for you. <p>Rash may be severe in some rare cases and cause your skin to blister or peel. If this happens, get emergency medical help right away.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>
<p>Trouble Sleeping</p> <p>Your medications may cause trouble sleeping. It may get better once your body gets used to the medication or when your treatment ends.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may find it hard to fall asleep or stay asleep. • How well you sleep may change over your treatment. For example, you may have several nights of poor sleep followed by a night of better sleep. • You may wake up too early or not feel well-rested after a night's sleep. • You may feel tired or sleepy during the day. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>What to do?</p> <p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>	
<p>Pains or cramps in the belly</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain or cramps in your belly. • Constipation and diarrhea can cause pain in your belly. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the pain is severe, gets worse or doesn't go away, talk to your health care team about other possible causes. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>
<p>Low appetite</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of interest in food or not feeling hungry. • Weight loss. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to eat your favourite foods. • Eat small meals throughout the day. • You may need to take meal supplements to help keep your weight up. • Talk to your health care team if you have no appetite. <p>Ask your health care team for the Loss of Appetite pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>
<p>Mood changes</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may feel hopeless or sad most of the day. • You may feel anxious, nervous, restless, agitated or stressed. • You may feel like you have less energy or have little or no interest in activities that you usually enjoy. • You may have changes in your personality. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating well and exercising may give you more energy and help you feel better. Always check with your health care team before starting a new exercise program to make sure it is safe for you. • Try to keep a regular bedtime routine. Go to bed and get up at the same time every day. • Get support from your family, friends, community and your health care team. <p>Talk to your health care team if your mood changes do not improve or if they are severe.</p>	
<p>Neuropathy (Tingling, numb toes or fingers)</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbness or tingling of your fingers and toes may happen after starting your treatment. • Sometimes it can be painful and feel like burning sensation, which may be severe. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your health care team if you have symptoms of neuropathy. • Numbness and tingling may slowly get better after your treatment ends. <p>In rare cases, it may continue long after treatment ends. If you continue to have bothersome symptoms, talk to your health care team for advice.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team, especially if you have trouble doing tasks like doing up buttons, writing, moving, or if you have severe pain or numbness.</p>
<p>Constipation</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having bowel movements (going poo) less often than normal. • Small hard stools (poo) that look like pellets. • The need to push hard and strain to have any stool (poo) come out. • Stomach ache or cramps. • A bloated belly, feeling of fullness, or discomfort. • Leaking of watery stools (poo). • Lots of gas or burping. • Nausea or vomiting. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>What to do?</p> <p>To help prevent constipation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to eat more fiber rich foods like fruits with skin, leafy greens and whole grains. • Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less. • Be Active. Exercise can help to keep you regular. • If you take opioid pain medication, ask your health care team if eating more fibre is right for you. <p>To help treat constipation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have not had a bowel movement in 2 to 3 days you may need to take a laxative (medication to help you poo) to help you have regular bowel movements. Ask your health care team what to do. <p>Ask your health care team for the Constipation Pamphlet for more information.</p>	
<p>Dizziness, low blood pressure</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may feel light-headed and like you might faint (pass out). • You may have nausea (feeling like you need to throw up), vomiting or blurred vision. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you feel dizzy or unwell lay down right away so that you do not fall. Try to get up and move slowly only once you feel better. • Do not drive a motor vehicle or use machinery if you feel dizzy. • Check your blood pressure often. Talk to your health care team to find out what a safe blood pressure is for you. • Your blood pressure may drop when the medication is being given to you. Let your health care team know right away if you start to feel dizzy or lightheaded. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Differentiation syndrome</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>Differentiation syndrome is caused by a large, fast release of proteins (called cytokines) that help control your body's immune system and fight disease. This is a serious side effect that usually happens within 1 to 2 weeks after starting your arsenic trioxide treatment, but it can also happen later into your treatment. If you have differentiation syndrome, it must be treated right away.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever, new cough, trouble breathing • New swelling of arms, legs, neck, groin, or underarm area • Fast weight gain, bone pain <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your health care team may give you medications to treat the symptoms and they may monitor you in the hospital. <p>If you have symptoms of differentiation syndrome, especially if they are new or severe, get emergency medical help right away.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away.</p>
<p>Liver problems</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>Your health care team may check your liver function with a blood test. The liver changes do not usually cause any symptoms.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely, you may develop yellowish skin or eyes, unusually dark pee or pain on the right side of your belly. This may be severe. <p>What to do?</p> <p>If you have any symptoms of liver problems, get emergency medical help right away.</p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away.</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>Reactions at the injection site</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your skin may become red, itchy, bruised, and/or swollen where the injection was given. Site reactions are usually mild and go away within one to three days. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell your nurse right away if there is any burning, stinging or other pain while arsenic trioxide is being injected into your vein. You may need to apply hot compresses or ice/cold compresses if you have mild redness or discomfort. This depends on which medication caused the reaction. Talk to your health care team to find out which treatment is right for you. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if this bothers you.</p>
<p>Low neutrophils (white blood cells) in the blood (neutropenia)</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>When neutrophils are low, you are at risk of getting an infection more easily. Ask your health care team for the Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count) pamphlet for more information.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you feel hot or unwell (for example if you have chills or a new cough), you must check your temperature to see if you have a fever. Do not take medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol®, acetaminophen, Advil® or ibuprofen). Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature. <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour. 	<p>If you have a fever, try to contact your health care team. If you are unable to talk to the team for advice, you MUST get emergency medical help right away.</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p>What to do?</p> <p>If your health care team has told you that you have low neutrophils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands often to prevent infection. • Check with your health care team before getting any vaccines, surgeries, medical procedures or visiting your dentist. • Keep a digital thermometer at home so you can easily check for a fever. <p>If you have a fever:</p> <p>If you have a fever, try to contact your health care team. If you are unable to talk to the team for advice, you must get emergency medical help right away.</p>	
<p>Low platelets in the blood</p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>When your platelets are low, you are at risk for bleeding and bruising. Ask your health care team for the Low Platelet Count pamphlet for more information.</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for signs of bleeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ bleeding from your gums ◦ unusual or heavy nosebleeds ◦ bruising easily or more than normal ◦ black coloured stools (poo) or blood in your stools (poo) ◦ coughing up red or brown coloured mucus ◦ dizziness, constant headache or changes in your vision ◦ heavy vaginal bleeding ◦ red or pink coloured urine (pee) <p>What to do?</p> <p>If your health care team has told you that you have low platelets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your pharmacist that your platelet count may be low before taking any prescriptions or over-the-counter medication. • Check with your healthcare team before you go to the dentist. • Take care of your mouth and use a soft toothbrush. • Try to prevent cuts and bruises. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if you have any signs of bleeding. If you have bleeding that doesn't stop or is severe (very heavy), you MUST get emergency help right away.</p>

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your health care team what activities are safe for you. • Your treatment may have to be delayed if you have low platelets. Your health care team may recommend a blood transfusion. <p>If you have signs of bleeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have a small bleed, clean the area with soap and water or a saline (saltwater) rinse. Apply pressure for at least 10 minutes. <p>If you have bleeding that does not stop or is severe (very heavy), you must get emergency medical help right away.</p>	
<p>Eye problems</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your eyes may feel dry, irritated, or painful. • They may look red and have a lot of tears. • They may feel sensitive to light and your vision may be blurry. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid wearing contact lenses. • Wear sunglasses with UV protection. • Use protective eyewear (goggles or helmet with face mask) when playing sports, mowing the lawn or doing anything that may get particles or fumes in your eyes. • You may try artificial tears (eye drops) or ointment. 	Talk to your health care team as soon as possible.
<p>Heartburn; stomach upset; bloating</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain or burning in the middle or top part of your chest. It may get worse when you are lying down or bending over or when you swallow. • A bitter or acidic taste in your mouth. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink clear liquids and eat small meals. • Do not eat acidic, fatty or spicy foods. • Limit caffeine (like coffee, tea) and avoid alcohol. • Avoid smoking or being around tobacco. 	Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit up or stand after eating. Do not lie down. • Raise the head of your bed six to eight inches. You may need to use extra pillows to do this. 	
<p>Flushing</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your face may feel warmth and the skin on your neck, upper chest, or face may quickly get red. <p>What to do?</p> <p>Talk to your health care team if no improvement or if severe.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>
<p>High blood pressure</p> <p>What to look for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are usually no signs of high blood pressure. • Rarely, you may have headaches, shortness of breath or nosebleeds. <p>What to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your blood pressure regularly. • Your doctor may prescribe medication to treat high blood pressure. <p>If you have a severe headache get emergency help right away as it may be a sign your blood pressure is too high.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

Other rare, but serious side effects are possible.

If you experience ANY of the following, speak to your cancer health care provider or get emergency medical help right away:

- chest pain, unusual tiredness, shortness of breath and new pain in your belly or arms
- trouble seeing, speaking, or using your arms and legs
- confusion, memory loss, personality changes, seizures
- passing very little or no pee, or new unusual weight gain
- signs of an allergic reaction: fever, itchiness, rash, swollen lips, face or tongue, chest and throat tightness, especially during or shortly after the medication is given
- foamy, frothy, or bubbly-looking pee
- unusual red or purple patches on your skin
- muscle twitches and cramps or itchiness that won't go away

Who do I contact if I have questions or need help?

My cancer health care provider is: _____

During the day I should contact: _____

Evenings, weekends and holidays: _____

Other Notes:

October 2023 Updated "How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding" section

For more links on how to manage your symptoms go to www.cancercareontario.ca/symptoms.

The information set out in the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets, and symptom management information (for patients) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended to be used by health professionals and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or side effects of a certain drug, nor should it be used to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition.

A patient should always consult a healthcare provider if he/she has any questions regarding the information set out in the Formulary. The information in the Formulary is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.