New Zealand Formulary PATIENT INFORMATION

FILGRASTIM

fil-gras-tim

What does it do?

Filgrastim is used in the treatment or prevention of infections by increasing the production of white blood cells.

How is it given?

Filgrastim is usually injected under the skin. Sometimes it is injected into a vein.

What if you forget a dose?

Inject the missed dose as soon as possible. If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and carry on as normal. Do not inject two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about <u>all medicines or treatments</u> that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Trouble breathing, swollen lips, tongue, throat or face Chest pain, fast or irregular heartbeat Fever	Tell your doctor immediately
Nose bleeds, small red or purple skin spots Bone pain	Tell your doctor
Hair loss or thinning Dizziness, headache Pain, tendemess or redness at injection site	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- Tell your doctor if you have problems with your spleen, sickle cell disease, osteoporosis (weak bones) or rheumatoid arthritis.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- This medicine is also known as granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-CSF).