

Medication Information Sheet

ipilimumab (IP-i-LIM-ue-mab)

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: Yervoy®

Appearance: clear, colourless to pale yellow liquid which may be mixed into a larger bag of fluid

What is this medication for?

- For treating a type of skin cancer called melanoma or a type of kidney cancer called renal cell carcinoma that cannot be removed by surgery or has spread to other parts of the body.
- Ipilimumab is an immune therapy drug. For more information on immune therapy, click [here](#).

What should I do before I have this medication?

- Tell your doctor if you have or had any major medical conditions (such as diabetes) and especially if you have or had:
 - ◊ an organ transplant
 - ◊ immune conditions (such as thyroid problems, ulcerative colitis or Crohn's, rheumatoid arthritis or lupus)
 - ◊ liver, kidney or lung problems
 - ◊ active infections
 - ◊ if you are taking corticosteroids (such as prednisone) or
 - ◊ any allergies
- Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are on a low salt diet.

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.

How will this medication affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

- The use of this medication in men or women may cause harm to the unborn baby if pregnancy occurs. Let your health care team know if you or your partner is pregnant, becomes pregnant during treatment, or if you are breastfeeding.
- If there is ANY chance that you or your partner may become pregnant, you and your partner together must:
 - ► Use 2 effective forms of birth control at the same time while taking this drug: Keep using birth control until **3 months** after the last dose. Discuss with your healthcare team.
- Do not breastfeed while taking this drug.
- This medication does not normally affect fertility (ability to get pregnant).

How is this medication given?

- This drug is given by injection into a vein.
- Talk to your health care team about your treatment schedule.
- If you miss an appointment to receive ipilimumab, contact your healthcare team to ask when to schedule your next dose.

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

- This medication does not normally interfere with other medications. Tell your health care team about all of your medications (prescription or over-the-counter medications, herbals and supplements). Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- For mild aches and pain:
 - You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) tablets. Ask your health care team about the right dose for you.
 - Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid, ASA), including low dose aspirin for heart conditions, may increase your chance of bleeding.
 - Talk to your health care team before you start or stop these medications.
 - If you feel unwell, take your temperature before taking any of these medications. They may hide a fever.
 - **Talk to your health care team or go to the closest emergency room right away if you have a fever.** See the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.
- Drinking alcohol and smoking during your treatment may increase some side effects and make your medication less effective. Speak to your health care team about smoking and drinking alcohol while on treatment.

<p>Low appetite, weight loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may not feel like eating or you may lose weight. • Try to eat foods that you like and eat small meals throughout the day. • You may need to take meal supplements to help keep your weight up. • See our Loss of appetite pamphlet for more information. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>
<p>Pains in the belly</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. 	<p>Talk to your health care team if no improvement or if severe</p>

Other rare, but serious side effects are possible.

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

- Yellow skin, eyes or dark urine.
- Fever (oral temperature of 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR 38.0°C (or 100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour).
- Changes in mood, unexpected changes in weight, face becoming puffy and rounded, feeling very tired, hair loss, headache that lasts or is very bad, lowered interest in sex, missed or irregular periods.
- Headache or dizziness (when sitting or standing up).
- Lower than normal blood pressure (if you measure this at home).
- Unable to pee or swelling of your legs.
- Peeing more than normal and feeling very thirsty.
- Problems with your vision, eye pain or sensitivity to light and redness.
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising.
- Red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Sudden, severe pain in your belly or stomach area.
- Blood or what looks like coffee-grounds in your vomit, black coloured stools (poo) or blood in your stools (poo).
- Numbness or tingling in your arms or legs.
- Shortness of breath or coughing up blood.
- Irregular heartbeat, chest pain or fainting spells.
- Muscle weakness or difficulty moving your arms or legs.
- Headache with fever, stiff neck, or confusion.

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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.