

Using an On-Body Injector – Pegfilgrastim/Neulasta®

Introduction

Pegfilgrastim, brand name Neulasta®, is a prescription medicine used to help reduce the chance of infection in people who have a low white blood cell count.

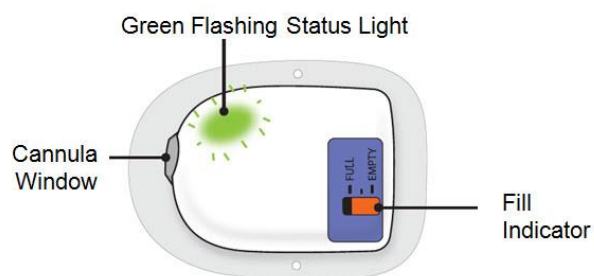
The immune system is part of our bodies' natural defenses against infection, and white blood cells (WBCs) play an important role. As your WBC count goes down, your risk of infection goes up.

Chemotherapy, other types of anti-cancer medications, and some types of cancer, can affect your bone marrow, where red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets are made.

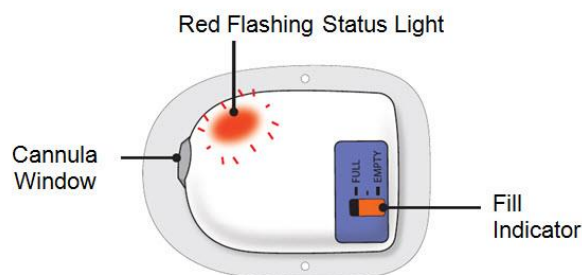
- **Do not use this product if you have ever had an allergic reaction to pegfilgrastim (Neulasta®) or filgrastim (Neupogen®).**
- A caregiver should be with you the first time that you receive Neulasta through the injector.

How the on-body injector works

- The on-body injector, which we'll call the injector, is designed to deliver your medication under the skin (subcutaneously) about 27 hours after your healthcare provider has applied it to your skin.
- The injector is applied to the skin on the back of your arm or on your abdomen. If placed on the back of your arm, you must have a caregiver available to read the monitor on the device – you will not be able to read it yourself.
- Within 3 minutes of applying the injector, a small needle will insert a tiny tube (cannula) under your skin. The needle goes back into the injector but the cannula stays under your skin. No medication is released at this time.
- A green light will flash slowly on the injector, indicating that it is working properly.
- The injector is applied on the same day you have chemotherapy. When you leave your appointment, you will be wearing the injector.
- A solid green light or no light at all means the full dose of medication has been given. Check to see if fill indicator reads "empty" and that the adhesive on the back of the injector is not noticeably wet.
- If you see a flashing red light, there is an error with the device. Call your healthcare provider immediately.



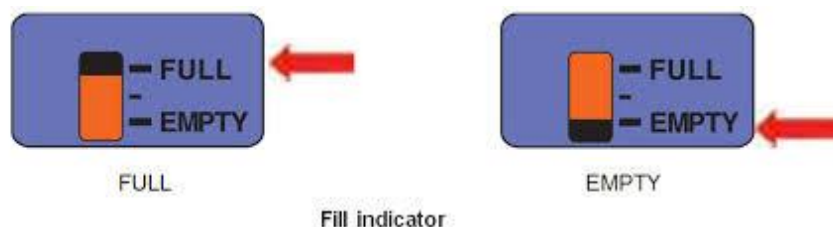
The On-body Injector is working properly.



Window: There's a window on the top that lets you see the cannula that the medication passes through during the 45 minutes it takes to deliver your full dose.



Adhesive pad: The back of the injector is attached to a pad that has adhesive on the side that goes against your skin – this holds the injector in place.

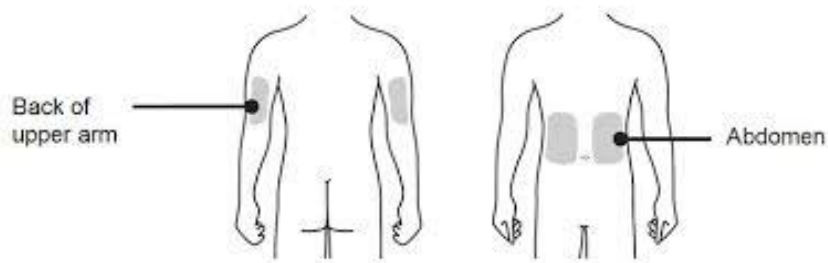


Fill indicator: The black line should be at FULL until the injector starts to deliver your medication. The black line should be at EMPTY when your full dose has been delivered.

Sound: The injector will beep before and after delivering the medication.

Application at the Chemoinfusion Center

On the day of your chemo, your healthcare provider will prepare an area of skin on your abdomen or back of your arm, and then apply the injector. The skin in that area must be intact.



What happens after the injector is applied?

- Once the injector is placed on your skin, it will beep and the yellow light will flash. A short needle will insert a small cannula. The needle goes back into the injector, but the cannula remains in place so the medication can be delivered. The cannula is removed when the injector is removed.
- For the next 27 hours, the green status light will flash every 5 seconds. This means the injector is working properly.
- Review the instructions with your healthcare provider. If you have any questions or concerns, talk to your nurse before you leave the Center.



Once the injector is in place, avoid

- traveling, driving or operating heavy machinery during hours 26, 27, 28, and 29
- sleeping on or applying pressure to the injector (it may not work properly)
- bumping the injector (it may get knocked off)
- using body lotion, creams, oils, or skin cleansing products near the injector (may weaken the adhesive that holds the injector in place)
- direct sunlight and using hot tubs, whirlpools, or saunas (may affect the medication)
- peeling off or disturbing the adhesive before you receive your full dose of medication

At home – What you need to do

- Check the status light occasionally. Once the injector is on your skin, it should flash green for about 27 hours. Know what time your medication delivery is expected to start (must be at least 24 hours after your chemo ends)
 - If you hear beeping, check the status light. If the light is flashing RED, call your healthcare provider immediately.
- Keep the injector at least 4 inches away from electrical equipment such as cell phones, cordless telephones, microwaves, and other common appliances (may cause a missed or incomplete dose to be delivered)
- Do not expose the injector to MRI, CT scan, x-ray, ultrasound, or an oxygen-rich environment such as a hyperbaric chamber (may damage the injector)
- Monitor the dose delivery. Remember:
 - A caregiver should be with you the first time that you receive Neulasta through the injector
 - If the injector was placed on the back of your arm, always have a caregiver available to check the status of the injector
- Check the full/empty gauge to confirm the dose was delivered
- After dose is delivered, remove the injector

When to call us

- If the injector comes off before your medication is delivered or while the medication is being delivered (DO NOT reapply the injector)
- If the injector is leaking
- If the adhesive on the injector becomes saturated with fluid, or if it is dripping (it may be the medication that is leaking and you won't get the correct dose)
- The status light on the injector is flashing red

If you have an allergic reaction during delivery, remove the injector by grabbing the edge of the adhesive pad and peeling off the injector. Get emergency medical attention (call 911 or go to closest emergency room)