Best-Value Biological Medicine (Long-acting granulocyte-colony stimulating factors): Neulasta® (Pegfilgrastim)

Information for Healthcare Professionals

The MMP recommends Neulasta® as a Best-Value Biological (BVB) Medicine for the long-acting granulocyte-colony stimulating factors. Prescribing Neulasta® will lead to significant savings for the health service.

The following presentation of Neulasta®, available on the High Tech Arrangement, is recommended as a best-value biological (BVB) medicine:

- Neulasta® solution for injection pre-filled syringe (PFS) 6 mg/0.6 ml.

Neulasta® solution for injection pre-filled syringe 6 mg/0.6 ml

- Each pack contains one PFS, containing 6 mg of pegfilgrastim.
- It is supplied as a clear, colourless solution for injection.
- The needle cover of the PFS contains dry natural rubber (a derivative of latex), which may cause allergic reactions.
- Neulasta® PFS has a shelf life of three years.
- Neulasta® PFS contains a 27-gauge needle.

Storage

- Neulasta® PFS should be stored in a refrigerator (2°C - 8°C). It should not be frozen. Accidental exposure to freezing temperatures for a single period of less than 24 hours does not adversely affect its stability.
- The PFS should be kept in the original packaging in order to protect it from light.
- The PFS may be exposed to room temperature (not above 30°C) for a maximum single period of up to 72 hours. It should be discarded if left at room temperature for longer than 72 hours.

Dose Administration

- Before use, the solution for injection in Neulasta® PFS should be inspected visually for particulate matter. Only a solution that is clear and colourless should be injected.
- The PFS should be allowed to reach room temperature for 30 minutes before injecting.
- Excessive shaking of the PFS should be avoided as it may aggregate pegfilgrastim, rendering it biologically inactive.
- The patient information leaflet contains a clear diagrammatic guide on how to administer a dose from the PFS.

- The plunger should be pushed slowly with constant pressure until the patient feels or hears a “snap”. The patient is push all the way down through the snap. It is important to push down through the “snap” to ensure the full dose of pegfilgrastim is delivered.
- The patient should then release their thumb from the plunger and lift the PFS off the skin. After releasing the plunger, the PFS safety guard will cover the infection needle.

Amgen Ireland Limited Patient Support Services

Amgen Ireland Limited provide a patient support service to patients who have been prescribed Neulasta®. TCP Homecare provides this service on behalf of Amgen Ireland Limited.

The following services are available as part of the patient support service:

- Provision of up to two nurse home visits to deliver patient education and training on correct injection and administration technique for Neulasta®. This can be delivered remotely, if required.
- Sharps management service - this includes supply, collection and disposal of a sharps bin
- Post-home visit report shared with the referring healthcare professional
- Access to a helpline for patient queries
- Access to the Amgen Care Patient Portal, which provides a variety of educational materials, e.g. patient guide to Neulasta®, online tutorial video on how to inject Neulasta® and information on neutropenia.

In order to avail of the patient support services for patients who have been prescribed Neulasta ®,

Please contact TCP Homecare:

- Freephone: 1800 211 211
- Email: Homecare.PCB@tcp.ie
- Alternatively, you can refer patients on www.amgencarehcp.ie (Unit username and password required)

In order to obtain patient support materials for use in clinics, please contact TCP:

- Freephone: 1800 211 211
- Email: Homecare.PCB@tcp.ie
- Amgen Care Patient Portal: https://www.amgencare.ie/neulasta

References:

1. Neulasta® 6 mg/0.6 ml solution for injection in pre-filled syringe. Summary of Product Characteristics. Last revised 27/06/2023. Accessed at www.ema.europa.eu on 11/03/2024.