

# Medical Oncology

## Drug Information Sheet

**Leucovorin:** a vitamin used to help in treating your cancer or to prevent or lessen side effects of other cancer fighting drugs.

**How will you get this drug?** A Cancer Center nurse will give this drug to you through an IV or your port.

You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<i>Phenytoin (Dilantin), Phenobarbital</i>	If you are taking these medicines, talk with your doctor. You may need to be checked more closely while you are taking it with <i>Leucovorin</i> .
<b>Leucovorin will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier.</li> <li>• Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away.</li> <li>• Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens.</li> <li>• Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water.</li> <li>• You may use the same toilet that you normally use.</li> <li>• If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet</li> <li>• Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet.</li> <li>• <b>It is safe to hug and kiss.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Avoid pregnancy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>• Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for <b>6</b> months after stopping this drug.</li> <li>• If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within <b>6</b> months after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away.</li> <li>• May cause fertility problems.</li> </ul>

### Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects	What to do:
<b>Nausea/vomiting Decreased appetite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you.</li> <li>• Eat smaller, frequent meals.</li> <li>• Try liquid nutrition supplements (Boost, Ensure).</li> <li>• A dietitian is available to talk with you.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

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<b>Serious allergic reactions</b> Up to 24 hours after infusion	<b>What to do:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call the nurse right away for unusual feelings, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ hot or flushed face and neck</li> <li>○ fever</li> <li>○ chills</li> <li>○ pain in the abdomen or back</li> <li>○ trouble breathing or wheezing</li> <li>○ chest tightness</li> <li>○ swelling of your face, lips, or tongue</li> <li>○ a rash</li> <li>○ itching</li> <li>○ hives</li> <li>○ cough</li> <li>○ runny or stuffy nose</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Call 911 and go to the Emergency Department right away if you have any symptoms after you return home.</li> </ul>
<b>Skin rash or itching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use moisturizing lotions to keep skin hydrated after bathing.</li> <li>• Use tepid water, rather than hot water.</li> <li>• Wear loose-fitting cotton clothing</li> <li>• Use over-the-counter anti-inflammation and anti-itch creams (hydrocortisone cream or diphenhydramine)</li> <li>• Apply cool, wet cloth to soothe skin</li> <li>• Avoid using perfumes and cologne.</li> <li>• Avoid rubbing and scratching</li> <li>• Drink water and non-caffeine beverages.</li> <li>• Notify your doctor of rash, itching or swelling. This may occur on the face and can be around your eyes.</li> </ul>
<b>These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.</b>	