

Contact Us Toll Free at 1.866.208.3430

## Infection Management

### Education

- Injectable medications used to treat multiple sclerosis may affect your blood cell counts and increase your risk of infection or prevent you from fighting infection.
  - MS medications can affect your white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets.
    - White blood cells are associated with infection, red blood cells are associated with fatigue and platelets are associated with bleeding.

### Helpful Tips

- Contact your doctor if you experience any of the following signs or symptoms of infection:
  - Difficulty fighting a current infection
  - Feel more tired or sluggish than usual
  - Bruise or bleed more than usual
- Blood tests should be done at regular intervals, according to your physician, to check your blood cell counts and check for any abnormalities.
- Monitoring your temperature is something that can also be done, as an increased temperature can mean that you have an infection.
- Lastly, remembering to adhere to proper hygiene can also reduce the rate of infection.
  - Wash your hands prior to eating and at regular intervals throughout the day.
  - Brush your teeth as recommended by your dentist.

### Treatment

- If you are feeling worse than you normally feel, are having trouble fighting an infection, bruising easily, etc., you should contact your doctor. You may need other medications or treatments to treat these conditions (such as antibiotics for an infection).
- It is likely that, after injections, your temperature will increase for a short time. You may also see an increased temperature for a longer period of time if you have an infection. Talk about this with your doctor, it is important to know at what temperature you should call him or her.

**For questions or concerns regarding any of the above statements or recommendations, please feel free to contact Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy Toll Free at 1.866.208.3430.**

#### References:

1. Frohman E, Phillips T, Kokel K, Pelt JV, O'Leary S, Gross S et al. Disease-modifying therapy in multiple sclerosis: strategies for optimizing management. *The Neurologist*. 2002; 2:227-236.
2. Crayton H, Heyman RA, Rossman HS. A multimodal approach to managing the symptoms of multiple sclerosis. *Neurology* 2004; 63 (suppl 5):S12-S18.