

# ACTIMMUNE<sup>®</sup>

(Interferon gamma-1b)

## Information for the Patient/Caregiver

### ACTIMMUNE<sup>®</sup> (Interferon gamma-1b)

**DO NOT ADMINISTER ACTIMMUNE UNTIL YOUR PHYSICIAN HAS THOROUGHLY TRAINED YOU IN THE PROPER TECHNIQUES.**

ACTIMMUNE is supplied in single-use vials. The unused portion of each vial should be disposed of as instructed by your physician. **DO NOT SHAKE.**

Your physician will tell you what size needle and syringe to use and also give you instructions on sterile technique. Keep all used syringes and needles out of the reach of children. Follow your physician's instructions on the safe disposal of used syringes and needles.

### MEASURING THE DOSE

In measuring the correct dose for injection, be sure to check that the ACTIMMUNE solution is clear. If the solution is cloudy or hazy, do not inject it, but return the ACTIMMUNE vial to your pharmacist or prescribing physician.



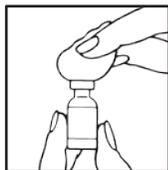
**1.**

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before preparing the medication. This helps prevent infection.



**2.**

Check the date on the ACTIMMUNE vial to be sure the drug has not expired.



**3.**

Remove the protective plastic cap and wipe the rubber stopper located on top of the ACTIMMUNE vial with an alcohol swab.



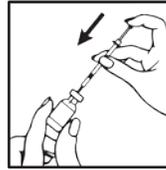
**4.**

Draw air into the syringe by pulling back on the plunger. The amount of air should be equal to the ACTIMMUNE dose.



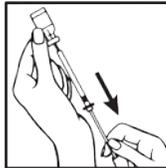
**5.**

Remove and save the needle guard. Slowly insert the needle straight through the center of the rubber stopper into the ACTIMMUNE vial.



**6.**

Gently push the plunger to discharge the air into the vial.



**7.**

Turn the vial upside down with the syringe needle still in it and hold it in one hand. Be sure the tip of the needle is in the solution. Using your other hand slowly pull back on the plunger in a continuous motion until the correct amount of ACTIMMUNE solution is in the syringe. Each vial contains enough ACTIMMUNE for removal of up to 0.5 mL, with a small additional amount present for ease of withdrawal.



**8.**

Remove the needle from the ACTIMMUNE vial and replace the needle guard until time of administration or injection. Administration should be as soon after filling the syringe as possible; do not store ACTIMMUNE in the syringe.

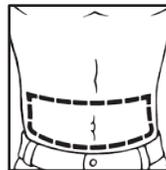
### SELECTING THE INJECTION SITE

Your doctor or nurse will teach you how to locate appropriate injection sites. It is very important that you rotate the site of an injection each time you give the medication. Even if you or your child develop a preference for one site – as often happens – you still should rotate the injection site.

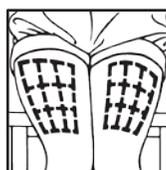
Following are the injection sites most often recommended:



■ Upper Arm



■ Abdomen



■ Thigh

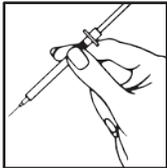
## GIVING THE MEDICATION

Your doctor or nurse will provide you with hands-on training on how to give an injection. Needles and syringes should be used only once to insure sterility of both the needle and the syringe. The following is a review of the steps involved in giving the medication:



**1.**

Cleanse the injection site with an alcohol-saturated cotton ball or cotton swab.



**2.**

Remove the needle guard from the syringe filled with the proper dose of solution and hold the syringe the way you would hold a pencil. Double check that the correct amount of *ACTIMMUNE* solution is in the syringe.



**3.**

Squeeze the skin between your fingers before and during the injection. Insert the needle into the skin at a 45° angle with a quick, firm motion. This hurts less than pushing the needle in slowly.

**4.**

After the needle is in, pull back very slightly with one hand on the plunger to see if blood comes into the syringe. This is to be sure that the needle has not entered a blood vessel. If blood does come into the syringe, do not inject the *ACTIMMUNE* solution. Withdraw the needle and insert at another location.



**5.**

If blood does not come into the syringe, slowly (within a few seconds) inject the solution by gently pushing the plunger until the syringe is empty.



**6.**

Withdraw the needle quickly, pulling it straight out, and apply pressure over the injection site with a dry gauze pad or cotton ball. A drop of blood may appear. Put a Band-Aid® on the injection site if desired.



**7.**

To prevent injury, safely dispose of all used needles and syringes after a single use as instructed by your physician by following these simple steps:

- Place all used needles and syringes in a hard, plastic container with a screw-on cap, or a metal container with a plastic lid, such as a coffee can properly labeled as to content. If a metal container is used, cut a small hole in the plastic lid and tape the lid to the metal container. When the metal container is full, cover the hole with tape and throw it away. If a hard, plastic container is used, always screw the cap on tightly after each use. When the plastic container is full, tape around the cap and throw it away.
- Do not use glass or clear, plastic containers, or any container that will be recycled or returned to a store.
- Always store the container out of the reach of children.
- Please check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for other suggestions. There may be special state and local laws that they will discuss with you.

**8.**

Occasionally a problem may develop at the injection site. If you notice any of the following signs or symptoms, contact your doctor or nurse:

- A lump or swelling that doesn't go away
- Bruising that doesn't go away
- Any signs of infection or inflammation at an injection site (pus, persistent redness, surrounding skin that is hot to the touch, persistent pain after the injection)

## STORAGE

*ACTIMMUNE* (Interferon gamma-1b) must be refrigerated immediately. Refrigerate at 36° to 46° Fahrenheit (2° to 8° Centigrade). **DO NOT FREEZE.**

*ACTIMMUNE* is supplied in single-use vials. The unused portion of each vial should be disposed of according to state and local regulations as instructed by your physician. If you have any questions, contact your physician.



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