

Sample Letter to Local CAC Member

Dear

As the current contractor advisory committee (CAC) representative to Medicare responsible for the oncology community's concerns and issues, I am writing to request your assistance in ensuring proper Medicare coverage and payment for Neulasta[®] (pegfilgrastim).

Neulasta[®] was approved for marketing by the FDA on January 31, 2002. Neulasta[®] is indicated to decrease the incidence of infection, as manifested by febrile neutropenia, in patients with nonmyeloid malignancies receiving myelosuppressive anticancer drugs associated with a clinically significant incidence of febrile neutropenia.

In summary, I have found that Neulasta[®] therapy is beneficial for my patients. Neulasta[®] is indicated to decrease the incidence of infection, as manifested by febrile neutropenia, in patients with non-myeloid malignancies receiving myelosuppressive anti-cancer drugs associated with a clinically significant incidence of febrile neutropenia.

Rare cases of splenic rupture and sickle cell crises have been reported in postmarketing experience. Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, have also been reported. The majority of these reactions occurred upon initial exposure. However, in rare cases, allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, recurred within days after discontinuing anti-allergic treatment.

In a placebo-controlled trial, bone pain occurred at a higher incidence in Neulasta[®] treated patients as compared to placebo-treated patients (31% vs 26%). The most common adverse events reported in either placebo- or active-controlled trials were consistent with the underlying cancer diagnosis and its treatment with chemotherapy, with the exception of bone pain. While not reported in patients receiving Neulasta[®], rare events of adult respiratory distress syndrome have been reported in patients receiving the parent compound, Filgrastim.

I would be more than happy to either discuss with you my clinical experience with Neulasta[®] and/or make myself available to present these experiences at the next Medicare CAC meeting.

I appreciate your assistance with this important matter.

Sincerely,