

## Education

- Certain medications used to treat multiple sclerosis (MS) may affect your blood cell counts and increase your risk of infection or lessen your ability to fight infection.
- Some injectable MS medications can also affect your red blood cells and platelets.
- Low white blood cells are associated with infection, low red blood cells with fatigue, and low platelets with bleeding.

## Helpful Tips

- Contact your doctor if you experience any of the following signs or symptoms of infection:
  - Difficulty fighting a current infection
  - Feeling more tired or sluggish than usual
  - Bruising or bleeding more than usual
- Blood tests should be done at regular intervals, according to your physician, to check your blood cell counts.
- Monitoring your temperature is something that you can do on your own, as an increased temperature may be a sign of infection.
- Lastly, practicing proper hygiene can 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, or experiencing another problem listed above, contact your doctor. You may need other medications or treatments, such as antibiotics for an infection.
- It is likely that after injections, your temperature will increase for a short time. This may extend for a longer period of time if you have an infection. Talk about this with your health care provider. It is important to know at what temperature you should seek assistance.

**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.**