

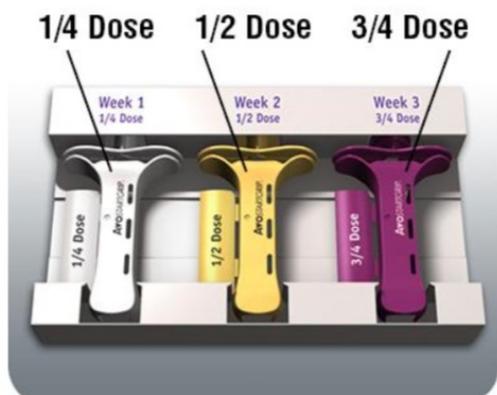
**Interferon beta-1a
(Avonex®)**

Patient Information

Updated: 10.2019

USED FOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relapsing-remitting forms of multiple sclerosis (MS) Interferon beta-1a will not cure MS. It may prevent and reduce the number of flare-ups and slow disease progression.
HOW IT WORKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interferon beta-1a is made from human proteins called interferons thought to modify the immune processes responsible for injury to the nervous system from MS.
HOW IT IS SUPPLIED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avonex is a form of Interferon beta-1a that is longer acting and allows for a longer time in between injections (once weekly). Instead of injecting under the skin, it is injected into the muscle. Avonex comes as a single-dose prefilled syringe, pen auto-injector, and a powder form (must be mixed prior to injection). <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>AVONEX PEN®</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>AVONEX Prefilled Syringe</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>AVONEX Powder Form</p> </div> </div>
DRUG INTERACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no known drug interactions with Interferon beta-1a.
DOSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 mcg injected into the muscle (intramuscularly) once weekly (every 7 days) When first starting, use the AvostartGrip Titration Kit to slowly increase the dose over three weeks according to a titration schedule. On the fourth week, use the full 30 mcg dose. Consider hydrating well and pre-medicating with Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Advil) to prevent flu-like symptoms.

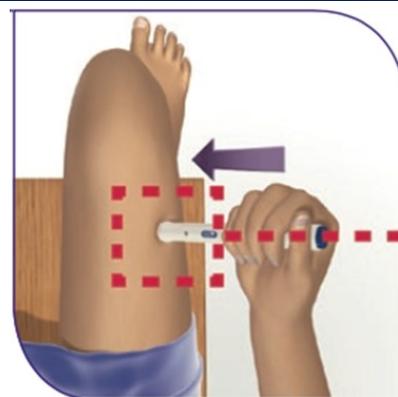
TITRATION SCHEDULE



Week	Dose	Use Titration Device	Date/Time
Week 1	1/4 Dose	White	
Week 2	1/2 Dose	Yellow	
Week 3	3/4 Dose	Purple	
Week 4	Full Dose	None	

HOW IT IS GIVEN

- Avonex is injected in the muscle of the upper outer thigh.
- Do not inject into an area where the skin is irritated, reddened, bruised, infected or scarred in any way.
- Rotate injection sites to avoid skin reactions.



STORAGE AND HANDLING

- When not used, Interferon beta-1a should be stored in the refrigerator.
- If refrigeration is not possible, Avonex powder vials may be stored protected from light up to 25°C (77°F) for **up to 30 days**. Once the powder is mixed, it should be used within 6 hours.
- Avonex pre-filled syringes and auto-injector pens may be stored protected from light up to 25°C (77°F) for **up to 7 days**.
- Safely dispose of used syringes in a sharps container.



COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

- **Flu- like symptoms:** muscle aches, fever, tiredness, chills
- You may be able to manage with over-the counter (OTC) pain and fever reducers (Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen). For many people, these symptoms lessen or go away over time.
- Thyroid problems
- Change in liver function tests
- Injection site problems: redness, pain, swelling



This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace the advice of your doctor or health care provider. We encourage you to discuss with your doctor any questions or concerns you may have.

RARE, BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your MS doctor right away if you have any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depression and suicidal thoughts: feeling hopeless or bad about yourself, and having thoughts of hurting yourself. • Liver injury: symptoms may include nausea, loss of appetite, tiredness, dark colored urine and pale stools, yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eye (jaundice), bleeding more easily than normal, confusion, sleepiness. • Serious allergic and skin reactions: itching, swelling of your face, eyes, lips, tongue or throat, trouble breathing, anxiousness, feeling faint, skin rash, hives, sores in your mouth or skin blisters and peels. • Skin necrosis at the injection site: any break in the skin, color changes (blue or black), swelling, drainage of fluid from the injection site. • Blood problems: low red and white blood cell, and platelet counts that can lead to infections and problems with bleeding and bruising.
MONITORING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should always check your skin for changes at the injection site. • During your treatment, you will need to have regular blood work to check for side effects. • BEFORE starting interferon beta-1a, you will need a complete blood count and liver function tests. • AFTER starting interferon beta-1a, you will need to repeat the blood work at 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months, then every 6 months thereafter.
MORE INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Websites: www.avonex.com, www.nationalmssociety.org • Clinical Trials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacobs LD, et al. Ann Neurol. 1996;39(3):285-94.