

**Interferon beta-1a  
(Plegridy®)**

**Patient Information**

Updated: 10.2019

USED FOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relapsing-remitting forms of multiple sclerosis (MS)</li> <li>Interferon beta-1a will not cure MS. It may prevent and reduce the number of flare-ups and slow disease progression.</li> </ul>
HOW IT WORKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
HOW IT IS SUPPLIED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plegridy is a longer acting form of interferon beta-1a that allows for a longer time in between injections.</li> <li>Plegridy comes in a single-dose prefilled syringe and an a pen form.</li> <li>Plegridy single-dose prefilled syringe:                     <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>125 mcg Prefilled Syringe</p> </div> </li> <li>Plegridy single-dose prefilled Pen:                     <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>125 mcg Pen</p> </div> </li> </ul>
DOSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interferon beta-1a (Plegridy) 125-micrograms is injected under the skin (subcutaneously) once every 2 weeks</li> <li>When first starting, the Plegridy Pen Starter Pack is used to slowly increase the dose over 29 days according to a titration schedule. On day 29, use the full 125-mcg dose then repeat the dose every 2 weeks thereafter.</li> <li>Consider hydrating well and pre-medicating with Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Advil) to prevent flu-like symptoms.</li> </ul>

STARTING THE FIRST DOSE

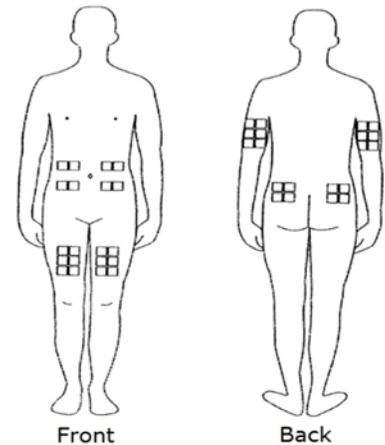
Day	Dose	Plegridy Pen
Day 1	63 mcg	Orange
Day 15	94 mcg	Blue
Day 29	125 mcg	Gray



- Mark on your personal calendar when you gave your first dose, then schedule your next dose 2 weeks after.

HOW IT IS GIVEN

- Interferon beta-1a is injected into fatty area just under the skin in the areas shown to the right.
- Do not inject into an area of the 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, Interferon beta-1a may be stored protected from light up to 25°C (77°F) for up to 30 days.
- Safely dispose of used syringes in a sharps container

DRUG INTERACTIONS

- There are no known drug interactions with Interferon beta-1a.

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

RARE, BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tell your MS doctor right away if you have any of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Depression and suicidal thoughts:</b> feeling hopeless or feeling bad about yourself, and having thoughts of hurting yourself</li> <li>• <b>Liver injury:</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>Serious allergic and skin reactions:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Skin necrosis at the injection site:</b> any break in the skin, color changes (blue or black), swelling, drainage of fluid from the injection site</li> <li>• <b>Blood problems:</b> low red and white blood cell, and platelet counts that can lead to infections and problems with bleeding and bruising.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
MONITORING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should always check your skin for changes at the injection site.</li> <li>• During your treatment, you will need to have regular blood work to check for side effects.</li> <li>• BEFORE starting interferon beta-1a, you will need a complete blood count and liver function tests.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
MORE INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Websites: <a href="http://www.plegridy.com">www.plegridy.com</a>, <a href="http://www.nationalmssociety.org">www.nationalmssociety.org</a></li> <li>• Clinical Trials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calabresi PA, et al. Lancet Neurol 2014; 13: 657-65.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>