Gefitinib

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is used for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).
- It may also be used for other reasons.
- Your care team will perform a test for a specific abnormal type of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) gene to make sure gefitinib is right for you.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue for a certain time period, until it no longer works, or until side effects are no longer controlled.

Treatment Regimen

Treatment Name	How the Treatment Works	How the Treatment is Given
Gefitinib (geh-FIH-tih-nib): Iressa (i-REH-suh)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by blocking a specific protein that helps them survive.	Tablet taken by mouth.

Treatment Administration and Schedule

Your gefitinib dosing instructions:

_____

_____

_____

- Gefitinib comes in 1 tablet strength: 250 mg.
- Your dose might differ, but gefitinib is typically taken as one 250 mg tablet by mouth once daily.
- Take gefitinib 1 time each day, around the same time each day.
- You can take gefitinib with or without food.
- If you cannot swallow gefitinib tablets whole:
  - Place your dose of gefitinib in a container with 4 to 8 ounces of water and stir for about 15 minutes
  - Drink the mixture right away
  - Place another 4 to 8 ounces of water in the same container, and drink it right away
- Do not change your dose or stop taking gefitinib unless your care team tells you to.
- Your care team may tell you to change your dose, temporarily stop, or completely stop taking gefitinib if you develop certain side effects.

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Treatment Administration and Schedule (Continued)

- If you miss a dose of gefitinib, take it as soon as you remember. If it is less than 12 hours until your next dose, skip the missed dose. Take your next dose at your regular time.
- If you vomit after taking a dose of gefitinib, do not take an extra dose on that day. Take your regular dose of gefitinib at your usual time the next day.
- If you take too much gefitinib, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Storage and Handling of Gefitinib

- Store gefitinib at room temperature between 68˚F and 77˚F (20˚C and 25˚C)
- Keep gefitinib and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused gefitinib.

Appointments

Appointments may include regular check-ups with your care team, lab visits, and imaging tests. It's important to keep your appointments whenever you can. If you miss an appointment, call your care team as soon as possible to reschedule it.

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Taken at Home
Supportive care used to treat or prevent side effects	

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Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Liver Problems	Description: Treatment can cause liver injury. Your care team may check your liver with blood tests before and during treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • Yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes (jaundice) • Severe nausea or vomiting • Pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen) • Dark, tea-colored urine • Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
Diarrhea	Description: Diarrhea means having bowel movements more often than usual. Your stools may also be loose or watery. If you have diarrhea: • Keep track of how often you have diarrhea. • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or fluids each day. Do this unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Eat small meals with low-fiber foods. Try bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, or toast. • Avoid high-fiber foods. These include raw vegetables, fruit, and whole grains. • Avoid foods that may cause gas. These include broccoli and beans. • Avoid milk, yogurt, and other dairy foods. • Avoid spicy, fried, or greasy foods. • Your care team may recommend medicine for diarrhea. One example is loperamide (Imodium). Talk to your care team if you have: • An increase of 4 or more bowel movements than usual in one day • Dizziness or lightheadedness while you have diarrhea • Signs of dehydration, such as feeling very thirsty, dizzy, or having dark urine • Blood in your stool
Kidney Problems	Description: Treatment can cause kidney problems, including damage to the kidneys and decreased kidney function. Your care team will monitor your kidney function during treatment. Recommendations: • Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids each day, unless your care team tells you otherwise. • Your care team may give you fluids and electrolytes with your treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • Decrease in your amount of urine • Blood in your urine • Swelling of your ankles • Loss of appetite

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Acne-Like Rash	Description: An acne-like rash is a skin condition. It usually appears on the face, neck, and back, causing red, inflamed bumps that may itch or feel dry. Recommendations: • If you get a rash, keep the area clean and dry. • Check with your care team before using any treatments. • Do not use over-the-counter acne treatments like benzoyl peroxide or salicylic acid, or soaps with alcohol. • Wash with a mild, moisturizing soap, and avoid long, hot baths or showers. • After washing, pat your skin dry instead of rubbing. • Oatmeal baths and unscented moisturizers may relieve itching. • Sunlight can worsen symptoms, so avoid sun exposure whenever possible. • Wear long-sleeved clothing with ultraviolet (UV) protection if possible. • Use broad-brimmed hats for added protection. • Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen (UVA/UVB), with sun protective factor (SPF) 30 or higher, as directed. • Use lip balm with SPF 30 or higher. • Avoid tanning beds. • Your care team may recommend or prescribe medicine for rash. Talk to your care team if you have: • Painful or worsening rash • Rash that does not improve with treatment

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Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Tears in Your Stomach or Intestines (Gastrointestinal Perforation)	Gastrointestinal perforation may be severe and lead to death. Tell your care team right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms: • Tenderness or pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that is severe or does not go away • Nausea, vomiting, or vomiting blood • Blood in the stool or black stool that looks like tar • Fever or chills
Lung Problems	Gefitinib can cause lung problems that may be serious, life-threatening, or fatal. Lung problems can include inflammation or scarring in the lungs called interstitial lung disease (ILD) or pneumonitis. If you develop lung problems, your care team may treat you with corticosteroid medicines. Call your care team right away if you develop: • Cough • Trouble breathing or shortness of breath • Fever • Other new or worsening breathing symptoms such as chest tightness or wheezing
Eye Problems	• Dry or red eyes • Eye pain or swelling • Vision changes • Increased tears • Sensitivity to light • Blurred vision

Before starting treatment, ask your care team when to call 9-1-1 or seek emergency help.
If you experience any new, worsening, or uncontrolled side effects, contact your care team immediately.

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Intimacy, Fertility, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding

- Treatment may **change how you feel about intimacy and your body.** However, physical closeness—such as holding hands and hugging—remains safe. It is common to have questions about intimacy. If needed, talk to your care team for guidance.
- Treatment can affect your **ability to have children**. It may damage your reproductive organs or stop them from working. If you are worried about fertility, talk to your care team before starting treatment.
- Treatment may **harm an unborn baby**.
    - If you are able to become pregnant:
        - Your care team will verify your pregnancy status before treatment.
        - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 2 weeks after your last dose of gefitinib.
        - If you think you might be pregnant or if you become pregnant, tell your care team right away.
    - If your partner is able to become pregnant, use an effective method of birth control—such as condoms—during treatment with gefitinib.
- It is **not known** if gefitinib is present in **breast milk**. Talk with your care team if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

Additional Information

- **Tell your care team about all the medicines you take**.
  This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal products. Before starting any new medicine, supplement, or vaccine, ask your care team first.
    - Especially tell your care team **if you take antacid medicines, including Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) medicines or H2 blockers, during treatment with gefitinib. Ask your care team if you are not sure.**
    - Especially tell your care team **if you take warfarin during treatment with gefitinib**. Taking these medicines together may increase your risk of bleeding. Your care team will perform blood tests regularly to check how fast your blood clots. Tell your care team right away if you develop any signs or symptoms of bleeding.
- **This Patient Education Sheet may not describe all possible side effects.**
  Call your care team for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Notes

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