Venetoclax

Care Team Contact Information: _____

Pharmacy Contact Information: _____

Diagnosis: _____

- This treatment is often used for:
  - Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)
  - Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) or small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)
- It may also be used for other reasons.

Goal of Treatment: _____

- Treatment may continue 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
Venetoclax (veh-NEH-toh-klax) Venclexta (ven-KLEK-stuh)	Slows down or stops the growth of cancer cells by blocking a specific protein that helps them survive.	Tablet(s) taken by mouth.

Treatment Administration and Schedule

- Venetoclax is often used in combination with other treatments. Talk with your care team about your exact treatment and schedule.

Your venetoclax dosing instructions:

_____

_____

_____

_____

- Venetoclax comes in 3 tablet strengths: 10 mg, 50 mg, and 100 mg.
- When you first take venetoclax:
  - You may need to take venetoclax at a hospital or clinic to be monitored for tumor lysis syndrome.
  - If you take venetoclax for AML, your dose will be increased daily over 3 or 4 days up to the full dose.
  - If you take venetoclax for CLL or SLL, your dose will be increased weekly over 5 weeks up to the full dose.

Brought to you by: ACCC Association of Cancer Care Centers, HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association, NCODA Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, ONS Oncology Nursing Society

Treatment Administration and Schedule (Continued)

- Take venetoclax 1 time a day with a meal and water at about the same time each day.
- Swallow venetoclax tablets whole. Do not chew, crush, or break the tablets.
  - Tell your care team if you have trouble swallowing 100 mg tablets. Your care team may prescribe your dose in smaller-sized tablets.
- If you are unable to swallow venetoclax tablets whole, the tablets can be crushed:
  - Crush the number of tablets needed for your prescribed dose and mix with ½ cup (4 ounces) of water, apple juice, apple sauce, or yogurt.
  - Take the entire mixture right away with a meal and water.
  - Do not crush more than 1 dose at a time.
  - Crushed tablets may cause yellow staining, including of the skin. Consider using disposable gloves when handling crushed tablets.
- If you miss a dose of venetoclax and it has been less than 8 hours since your last dose, take your dose as soon as possible. If you miss a dose of venetoclax and it has been more than 8 hours since your last dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your usual time.
- If you vomit after taking venetoclax, do not take an extra dose. Take the next dose at your usual time the next day.
- If you take too much venetoclax, call your care team or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

Storage and Handling of Venetoclax

- Store venetoclax at or below 86°F (30°C).
- Keep venetoclax in its original container to protect it from moisture.
- People who are or may become pregnant should avoid handling venetoclax. If handling is necessary, they should wear gloves.
- Keep venetoclax and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.
- Ask your care team how to safely throw away any unused venetoclax.

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 any appointments, call your care provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

Brought to you by:
ACCC Association of Cancer Care Centers™
HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
NCODA Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement
ONS Oncology Nursing Society

Supportive Care to Prevent and Treat Side Effects

Description	Supportive Care Given at the Clinic or Hospital	Supportive Care Taken at Home
To help treat or prevent nausea and vomiting		
To help lower the risk of Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)		
To help lower the risk of infections		
Other		

Brought to you by:

ACCC Association of Cancer Care Centers™

HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

NCODA Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement

ONS Oncology Nursing Society

Common Side Effects

Side Effect	Important Information
Low White Blood Cell (WBC) Count (Neutropenia) and Increased Risk of Infection	Description: WBCs help protect your body from infections. A low WBC count increases your risk of infection. Recommendations: • Wash your hands often and bathe regularly. • Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are sick. • Follow food safety and wound care advice from your care team. • Your care team may prescribe medicine to help your WBCs recover. Talk to your care team if you have: • Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher • Chills • New or worsening cough or sore throat • Painful urination or signs of a urinary infection • Feeling much more tired than usual • Red, swollen, warm, or painful areas on the skin (possible skin infection)
Low Platelet Count (Thrombocytopenia)	Description: Platelets help your blood clot and wounds heal. A low platelet count increases your risk of bruising and bleeding. Recommendations: • Blow your nose gently and avoid picking it. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush and keep good oral hygiene. • Use an electric razor for shaving and a nail file instead of nail clippers. • Avoid over-the-counter medicines that can increase bleeding risk (for example, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen). • Talk with your care team or dentist before medical or dental procedures — you may need to pause treatment. Talk to your care team if you have: • A nosebleed lasting more than 5 minutes despite pressure • A cut that continues to bleed • Heavy gum bleeding when brushing or flossing • Sudden or severe headache • Blood in your urine or stool • Blood in your spit after coughing
Low Red Blood Cell (RBC) Count and Hemoglobin (Hgb) (Anemia)	Description: RBCs and Hgb carry oxygen to your body's tissues and remove carbon dioxide. Low RBC or Hgb (anemia) can make you feel weak, very tired, or look pale. Recommendations: • Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. • Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities if you are very tired. • Balance activity and rest — stay as active as you can, but rest when needed. • Eat a balanced diet and follow any nutrition or supplement advice from your care team. Talk to your care team if you have: • Shortness of breath • Dizziness or fainting • Fast or irregular heartbeats • Sudden or severe headache

Brought to you by: ACCC Association of Cancer Care Centers, HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association, NCODA Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, ONS Oncology Nursing Society

<table>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>Description: Fatigue is a constant and sometimes strong feeling of tiredness.

Recommendations:
• Routine exercise can help reduce fatigue. Talk with your care team to find the right type and amount of activity for you.
• Ask family and friends for help with daily tasks and for emotional support.
• Try healthy ways to feel better, such as meditation, journaling, yoga, or guided imagery, to reduce anxiety and improve well-being.
• Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night. Limit daytime naps to help you sleep better at night.
• Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other potentially dangerous activities if you are very tired.

Talk to your care team if you have:
• Tiredness that affects your daily life or prevents you from doing normal activities
• Tiredness that does not get better with rest
• Dizziness or weakness along with severe tiredness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea and Vomiting</td>
<td>Description: Nausea is an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach or the need to throw up. You may or may not vomit.

Recommendations:
• Eat smaller, more frequent meals.
• Avoid fatty, fried, spicy, or highly sweet foods.
• Eat bland foods at room temperature and drink clear liquids.
• If you vomit, start with small sips of water, broth, or other clear liquids. If these stay down, try soft foods (such as gelatin, plain cornstarch pudding, yogurt, strained soup, or strained cooked cereal) and gradually return to solid foods.
• Your care team may prescribe medicine for these symptoms.

Talk to your care team if you have:
• Vomiting for more than 24 hours
• Nonstop vomiting
• Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine)
• Blood or coffee-ground-like appearance in your vomit
• Severe stomach pain that does not go away after vomiting</td>
</tr>
</table>

Brought to you by:

ACCC Association of Cancer Care Centers™

HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

NCODA Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement

ONS Oncology Nursing Society

<table>
<tr><td>Diarrhea</td><td>Description: Diarrhea is loose, watery stools or more frequent bowel movements than usual. It can cause dehydration and weakness.
Recommendations:
Keep track of how often you go to the bathroom each day.
Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water or other fluids daily, unless your care team tells you otherwise.
Eat small meals of mild, low-fiber foods (such as bananas, applesauce, potatoes, chicken, rice, and toast).
If you have diarrhea, avoid high-fiber foods (such as raw vegetables, fruits, and whole grains), gas-producing foods (such as broccoli and beans), dairy (such as milk and yogurt), and spicy, fried, or greasy foods.
Your care team may recommend an antidiarrheal medicine such as loperamide (Imodium).
Talk to your care team if you have:
4 or more bowel movements than normal in 24 hours
Dizziness or lightheadedness while having diarrhea
Signs of dehydration (very thirsty, dry mouth, dizziness, or dark urine)
Bloody diarrhea</td></tr>
<tr><td>Liver Problems</td><td>Description: Treatment can cause liver injury. Your care team may check your liver with blood tests before and during treatment.
Talk with 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</td></tr>
<tr><td>High Blood Sugar (Hyperglycemia)</td><td>Description: Treatment may cause high blood sugar levels. Your care team will do blood tests to check you for these changes and will treat you if needed.
Recommendations:
Eat a well-balanced diet.
Limit sugary drinks and foods.
Eat smaller, more frequent meals.
Be physically active for at least 30 minutes most days.
Your care team may ask you to check your blood sugar at home. If you are already doing this, they may ask you to do it more frequently.
Talk to your care team if you have:
Frequent urination
Drowsiness
Increased thirst
Loss of appetite
Blurred vision
Fruity smell on your breath
Confusion
Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain
It becomes harder to control your blood sugar</td></tr>
</table>

Brought to you by: ACCC Association of Cancer Care Centers, HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association, NCODA Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, ONS Oncology Nursing Society

Changes in Electrolytes and Other Laboratory Results	Description: Treatment may cause low levels of calcium, sodium, and phosphate, and high levels of potassium in your blood. Your care team will do blood tests to check you for these changes and will treat you if needed. Talk to your care team if you have: • Fast, slow, irregular, or pounding heartbeat • Chest pain • Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath • Confusion, drowsiness, or trouble thinking • Seizures • Fainting or near fainting • Severe dizziness • Severe headache • Slurred speech • Sudden weakness or unsteadiness • Trouble walking • Severe muscle cramps, spasms, or weakness • Bone pain • Numbness in hands or feet • Nausea/vomiting • Sudden weight gain • Swelling of arms, hands, legs, or ankles • Tingling or numbness around the mouth • Severe tiredness or inability to perform daily activities

Select Rare Side Effects

Side Effect	Talk to Your Care Team if You Have Any of These Signs or Symptoms
Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)	Tumor lysis happens when cancer cells break apart and release large amounts of substances into your bloodstream faster than your body can handle. TLS is a group of conditions that affect your heart, kidneys, and muscles. Drink 6 to 8 glasses (approximately 1.5 to 2 liters) of water each day, starting 2 days before your first dose, on the day of your first dose of venetoclax, and each time your dose is increased. • Severe nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea • Urinating smaller amounts or having dark-colored urine • Muscle cramps or twitching • Rapid heartbeats or chest pain • Confusion or weakness • Seizures

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.

Brought to you by:
ACCC Association of Cancer Care Centers
HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
NCODA Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement
ONS Oncology Nursing Society

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, take a pregnancy test before starting treatment.
    - Use an effective method of birth control during treatment and for 7 days after your last dose of venetoclax.
    - 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 and for 7 days after your last dose of venetoclax.
- **Do NOT breastfeed** during treatment and for 7 days after your last dose of venetoclax.

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.
    - **You should not receive a "live vaccine" before, during, or after treatment with venetoclax**, until your care team tells you it is okay. If you are not sure about the type of immunization or vaccine, ask your care team. These vaccines may not be safe or may not work as well during treatment.
- **You should not drink grapefruit juice, eat grapefruit, Seville oranges (often used in marmalades), or starfruit** during treatment with venetoclax. These products may increase the amount of venetoclax in your blood.
- **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

Updated Date: June 2, 2026

Brought to you by:
ACCC Association of Cancer Care Centers
HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
NCODA Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement
ONS Oncology Nursing Society

Scan the QR code below to access this education sheet.

Important notice: The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC), Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA), Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. (NCODA), and Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) have collaborated in gathering information for and developing this patient education guide. This guide represents a brief summary of the medication derived from information provided by the drug manufacturer and other resources.

This guide does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warnings, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with this medication and should not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. Provision of this guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by ACCC, HOPA, NCODA, or ONS, who assume no liability for and cannot ensure the accuracy of the information presented. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional.

Permission: Patient Education Sheets are provided as a free educational resource for patients with cancer and their caregivers in need of concise, easy to understand information about cancer therapy. Healthcare providers are permitted to copy and distribute the sheets to patients as well as direct patients to the Patient Education Sheets website. However, commercial reproduction or reuse, as well as rebranding or reposting of any type, are strictly prohibited without permission of the copyright holders. Permission requests, including direct linking from Electronic Health Records, and licensing inquiries should be emailed to patienteducationsheets@ncoda.org.

Copyright © 2026 by Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement, Inc. All rights reserved.

PES-311

Brought to you by:

ACCC Association of Cancer Care Centers™

HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

NCODA Network for Collaborative Oncology Development & Advancement

ONS Oncology Nursing Society