Chloramb**u**cil

- **Chlorambucil** (klor-AM-byoo-sil) is a drug that is used to treat many types of cancer. It is a tablet that you take by mouth.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to chlorambucil or any medications before taking chlorambucil.
- Tell your doctor if you have a **history of seizures.**
- A **blood test** may be taken before each treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on the test results and/or other side effects.
- It is important to **take** chlorambucil exactly as directed by your doctor. Make sure you understand the directions.
- Take chlorambucil on an **empty stomach,** at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after eating, with a full glass of water, at the same time each day. Chlorambucil tablets should be swallowed whole.
- **For continuous once daily dosing:** If you **miss** a dose of chlorambucil, take it as soon as you can if it is within 12 hours of the missed dose. If it is over 12 hours since your missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your usual dosing times. Call your doctor during office hours to ask about making up the missed dose.
- If you **vomited** right after taking the medication, call your doctor.
- Depending on your dose of chlorambucil, your doctor may tell you to **drink** plenty of liquids e.g., 8-12 cups (2000-3000 mL or 70-100 oz) a day. This helps prevent kidney problems.
- Chlorambucil may cause **sterility** in men and **menopause** in women. If you plan to have children, discuss this with your doctor before being treated with chlorambucil.
- Chlorambucil may damage sperm and may harm the baby if used during pregnancy. It is best to use **birth control** while being treated with chlorambucil. Tell your doctor right away if you or your partner becomes pregnant. Do not breast feed during treatment.
- **Tell** doctors, dentists or other health care providers that you are being treated with this medication before you receive any other treatment from them.
- **Store** chlorambucil tablets out of the reach of children, **in the refrigerator**, away from heat, light, and moisture.
- Chlorambucil is **usually well tolerated** and serious side effects are rare.

Changes in blood counts

This drug may cause temporary changes in your blood counts. Your doctor will be following these changes carefully by performing blood tests. Adjustment of your treatment may be needed in certain circumstances.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Normal white blood cells protect your body by fighting bacteria (germs) that cause infection. **When they are low, you are at greater risk of getting an infection.**	**To help prevent infection:** • Wash your hands often and always after using the bathroom. • Avoid crowds and people who are sick. • Visit the Urgent Care Unit at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) **immediately** at the first sign of an infection such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), chills, cough, or burning when you pass urine.
Normal platelets help your blood to clot normally after an injury (e.g., cut). **When the platelet count is low you may be more likely to bruise or bleed.**	To help prevent bleeding problems: • Try not to bruise, cut, or burn yourself. • Clean your nose by blowing gently. • Do not pick your nose. • Avoid constipation. • Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush as your gums may bleed more easily. Maintain good oral hygiene. Some medications such as aspirin, ibuprofen or other pain medications may increase your risk of bleeding. • For minor pain, try paracetamol (Panadol®) • Refer to your doctor if any of these medications have been prescribed to you.

Side effects that may occur and tips for management

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Nausea, vomiting and abdominal discomfort may rarely occur. Nausea is more common with doses over 20 mg a day. Most people have little or no nausea.	You will be given a prescription for anti-nausea drug(s) to take before your chemotherapy treatment and/or at home. It is easier to prevent nausea than treat it once it has occurred, so follow directions closely. • Drink plenty of liquids. • Eat and drink often in small amounts.
Hair loss does not usually occur with chlorambucil.	

Patient education leaflet
Adapted from BC Cancer Drug Manual –CANADA (September 2004, Revised: December 2006, Limited revision: 20 February 2007)
Prepared by Clinical Pharmacy Department at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research - Version 1 on May 2017

SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **infection** such as fever (over 100°F or 38°C by an oral thermometer), shaking chills; cough, severe sore throat, productive cough (coughing up thick or green sputum; cloudy or foul smelling urine; painful, tender, or swollen red skin wounds or sores.
- Signs of **bleeding** problems such as black, tarry stools; blood in urine; pinpoint red spots on skin; extensive bruising.
- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including flushing, fever, rash, itching, dizziness, fast heartbeat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- **Seizures** or loss of consciousness.
- Signs of **lung problems** such as cough shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) IF YOU HAVE:

- Increased **sore throat** or mouth that makes it difficult to swallow comfortably.
- Signs of **anemia** such as unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Signs of **liver problems** such as yellow eyes or skin, white or clay-coloured stools.
- **Numbness** or **tingling** in feet or hands.
- Skin rash or **itching**.
- Signs of gout such **as joint pain**.
- Severe **abdominal pain.**
- Signs of **bladder problems** such as changes in urination, painful burning sensation, presence of blood, or abdominal pain.
- Changes in **eyesight**.

CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Loss of appetite.
- Easy bruising or minor bleeding.
- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores on your lips, tongue, mouth, or throat.
- Severe fatigue.
- Trouble walking or loss of coordination.
- Difficulty thinking clearly and logically.

REPORT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS TO YOUR DOCTOR

This is a summary of useful information to help you understand and take your medicine safely .

We are available to answer your questions For urgent inquiries contact :

- **Urgent care unit at the National Center of Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) TEL : 44397179 (available 24 hours, all week days).**

For further information or question contact :

- **Your doctor** (from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Clinical Pharmacy section,** TEL: 44397239 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .
- **Outpatient Pharmacy**, TEL: 44397531, 44397825 (Sun-Thurs from 7 am – 3 pm) .

Pharmacy Department