What Is Neulasta®?
Neulasta (also called pegfilgrastim) is a medicine that helps your body make more white blood cells. These cells help your body fight infection and stay healthy.

Why Do I Need Neulasta?
Chemotherapy works by killing fast-growing cancer cells. Some chemotherapy drugs, however, also damage fast-growing healthy cells such as red and white blood cells. As a result, a common side effect of chemotherapy is a low amount of white blood cells in the body (called neutropenia).
This means you are at risk for an infection, or may need to delay cancer treatment until your level of white blood cells is higher. Neulasta helps your body make more white blood cells.

How and When Is It Given?
Neulasta is given by injection with a short needle into the skin. It will be given by a nurse or other health care provider.

Neulasta is usually given as a single dose with each chemotherapy cycle—no sooner than 24 hours after the last dose of chemotherapy, and at least 10 days before beginning the next chemotherapy cycle.

What Are the Side Effects?
Some patients have reported mild to moderate aching in bones and muscles. In most cases, this pain can be controlled with over-the-counter pain relievers such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Your doctor would like you to use ___________ as a pain reliever. Please call the clinic if this does not relieve your pain.

When Should I Call My Doctor?
Call your doctor or seek medical care right away if you develop any of these symptoms:
• Abdominal or shoulder pain
• Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
• Signs of an allergic reaction, such as
  – Hives
  – Rashes
  – Swelling around mouth or eyes

Contact your health care provider with any other questions you have.

Your Neulasta Appointment
Date ________________________________
Time ________________________________
Location ________________________________
Clinic phone number ________________________________

• It is very important that you receive the Neulasta injection on the prescribed day.
• Missing an injection may lead to severe sickness or infection, which could require hospitalization.
• If for some reason you cannot make your appointment, call the clinic right away.