

1 MEDICATION GUIDE**2 PEG-Intron® Redipen® Single-dose Delivery System**
3 Peginterferon alfa-2b**4**
5 Including appendix with instructions for using PEG-Intron® Redipen® Single-dose
6 Delivery System

7
8 Read this Medication Guide carefully before you start taking PEG-Intron (Peg In-tron) or
9 PEG-Intron/REBETOL (REB-eh-tole) combination therapy. Read the Medication Guide
10 each time you refill your prescription because there may be new information. The
11 information in this Medication Guide does not take the place of talking with your health care
12 provider (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant).
13

14 If you are taking PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy, also read the
15 Medication Guide for REBETOL (ribavirin, USP) Capsules.
16

17 **What is the most important information I should know about PEG-Intron and**
18 **PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy?**
19

20 PEG-Intron (peginterferon) is a treatment for some people who are infected with hepatitis C
21 virus. However, PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy can have
22 serious side effects that may cause death in rare cases. Before you decide to start treatment,
23 you should talk to your health care provider about the possible benefits and side effects of
24 PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy. If you begin treatment you will
25 need to see your health care provider regularly for medical examinations and lab tests to
26 make sure your treatment is working and to check for side effects.
27

28 REBETOL capsules may cause birth defects and/or death of an unborn child. If you
29 are pregnant, you or your male partner must not take PEG-Intron/REBETOL
30 combination therapy. You must not become pregnant while either you or your partner
31 are being treated with the combination PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy, or for 6
32 months after stopping therapy. Men and women should use birth control while taking
33 the combination therapy and for 6 months afterwards. If you or your partner are being
34 treated and you become pregnant, either during treatment or within 6 months of
35 stopping treatment, call your health care provider right away.
36

37 If you are taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy you should call your
38 health care provider immediately if you develop any of these symptoms:
39

40 New or worsening mental health problems, such as thoughts about killing or hurting
41 yourself or others, trouble breathing, chest pain, severe stomach or lower back pain,
42 bloody diarrhea or bloody bowel movements, high fever, bruising, bleeding, or
43 decreased vision.
44

45 The most serious possible side effects of PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy
46 include:



47

48 **Problems with Pregnancy.** Combination PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy can cause
49 death, serious birth defects, or other harm to your unborn child. If you are a woman
50 of childbearing age, you must not become pregnant during treatment and for 6 months
51 after you have stopped therapy. You must have a negative pregnancy test immediately
52 before beginning treatment, during treatment, and for 6 months after you have stopped
53 therapy. Both males and female patients must use effective forms of birth control
54 during treatment and for the 6 months after treatment is completed. Male patients
55 should use a condom. If you are a female, you must use birth control even if you believe
56 that you are not fertile or that your fertility is low. You should talk to your health care
57 provider about birth control for you and your partner.

58

59 **Mental health problems and suicide.** PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapies
60 may cause patients to develop mood or behavioral problems. These can include irritability
61 (getting easily upset) and depression (feeling low, feeling bad about yourself, or feeling
62 hopeless). Some patients may have aggressive behavior. Former drug addicts may fall back
63 into drug addiction or overdose. Some patients think about hurting or killing themselves or
64 other people and some have killed (suicide) or hurt themselves or others. You must tell your
65 health care provider if you are being treated for a mental illness or had treatment in the past
66 for any mental illness, including depression and suicidal behavior. You should tell your
67 health care provider if you have ever been addicted to drugs or alcohol.

68

69 **Heart problems.** Some patients taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy may
70 develop problems with their heart, including low blood pressure, fast heart rate, and very
71 rarely, heart attacks. Tell your health care provider if you have had any heart problems in the
72 past.

73

74 **Blood problems.** PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapies commonly lower two
75 types of blood cells (white blood cells and platelets). In some patients, these blood counts
76 may fall to dangerously low levels. If your blood counts become very low, this could lead to
77 infections or bleeding.

78

79 REBETOL therapy causes a decrease in the number of red blood cells you have (anemia).
80 This can be dangerous, especially for patients who already have heart or circulatory
81 (cardiovascular) problems. Talk with your health care provider before taking combination
82 PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy if you have, or have ever had any cardiovascular problems.

83

84 **Body organ problems.** Certain symptoms like severe stomach pain may mean that your
85 internal organs are being damaged.

86

87 *For other possible side effects, see "What are the possible side effects of PEG-Intron and*
88 *PEG-Intron/REBETOL" in this Medication Guide.*

89

90 **What is PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy?**

91 The PEG-Intron product is a drug used to treat adults who have a lasting (chronic) infection
92 with hepatitis C virus and who show signs that the virus is damaging the liver.



93 PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy consists of two medications also used to treat
94 hepatitis C infection. Patients with hepatitis C have the virus in their blood and in their liver.
95 PEG-Intron reduces the amount of virus in the body and helps the body's immune system
96 fight the virus. REBETOL (ribavirin) is a drug that helps to fight the viral infection, but does
97 not work when used by itself to treat chronic hepatitis C.

98
99 It is not known if PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapies can cure hepatitis C
100 (permanently eliminate the virus), or if it can prevent liver failure or liver cancer that is
101 caused by hepatitis C infection.

102
103 It is also not known if PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy will
104 prevent one infected person from infecting another person with hepatitis C.

105
106 **Who should not take PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy?**

107 Do not take PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy if you:

- 108 • are pregnant, planning to get pregnant during treatment or during the 6 months after
109 treatment, or breast-feeding
- 110
- 111 • are a male patient with a female sexual partner who is pregnant, or plans to become
112 pregnant at any time while you are being treated with REBETOL, or during the 6
113 months after your treatment has ended.
- 114
- 115 • have hepatitis caused by your immune system attacking your liver (autoimmune
116 hepatitis) or unstable liver disease
- 117
- 118 • had an allergic reaction to another alpha interferon or are allergic to any of the
119 ingredients in PEG-Intron or REBETOL Capsules. If you have any doubts, ask your
120 health care provider.
- 121
- 122 • Do not take PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy if you have abnormal red
123 blood cells such as sickle-cell anemia or thalassemia major.
- 124

125 **If you have any of the following conditions or serious medical problems, discuss them**
126 **with your health care provider before taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL**
127 **therapy:**

- 128 • depression or anxiety
- 129 • sleep problems
- 130 • high blood pressure
- 131 • previous heart attack, or other heart problems
- 132 • liver problems (other than hepatitis C infection)
- 133 • any kind of autoimmune disease (where the body's immune system attacks the body's
134 own cells), such as psoriasis, systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis
- 135 • thyroid problems
- 136 • diabetes
- 137 • colitis (inflammation of the bowels)



- 138 • cancer
- 139 • hepatitis B infection
- 140 • HIV infection
- 141 • kidney problems
- 142 • bleeding problems
- 143 • alcoholism
- 144 • drug abuse or addiction
- 145 • body organ transplant and are taking medicine that keeps your body from rejecting your
- 146 transplant (suppresses your immune system).
- 147
- 148

149 **How should I take PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL?**

150 Your health care provider will decide whether you will take PEG-Intron therapy alone or the
151 combination of PEG-Intron/REBETOL, as well as the correct dose (based on your weight).
152 PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL are given for one year. Take your prescribed dose of
153 PEG-Intron once a week, on the same day of each week and at approximately the same time.
154 Take the medicine for the full year and do not take more than the prescribed dose.
155 REBETOL Capsules should be taken with food. When you take REBETOL with food, more
156 of the medicine (70% more on average) is taken up by your body. You should take
157 REBETOL the same way every day (twice a day with food) to keep the medicine in your
158 body at a steady level. This will help your health care provider to decide how your treatment
159 is working and how to change the number of REBETOL capsules you take if you have side
160 effects from REBETOL. **Be sure to read the Medication Guide for REBETOL**
161 **(ribavirin, USP) for complete instructions on how to take the REBETOL capsules.**
162

163 You should be completely comfortable with how to prepare PEG-Intron, how to set the dose
164 you take, and how to inject yourself before you use PEG-Intron for the first time. PEG-
165 Intron comes in two different forms, a powder in a single-use vial and a Redipen® single-use
166 delivery system. See the attached appendix for detailed instructions for preparing and giving
167 a dose of PEG-Intron.
168

169 If you miss a dose of the PEG-Intron product, take the missed dose as soon as possible during
170 the same day or the next day, then continue on your regular dosing schedule. If several days
171 go by after you miss a dose, check with your health care provider about what to do. Do not
172 double the next dose or take more than one dose a week without talking to your health care
173 provider. Call your health care provider right away if you take more than your prescribed
174 PEG-Intron dose. Your health care provider may wish to examine you more closely, and
175 take blood for testing.
176

177 If you miss a dose of REBETOL capsules, take the missed dose as soon as possible during
178 the same day. If an entire day has gone by, check with your health care provider about what
179 to do. Do not double the next dose.
180

181 You must get regular blood tests to help your health care provider check how the treatment is
182 working and to check for side effects.
183



184 Tell your health care provider if you are taking or planning to take other prescription or non-
185 prescription medicines, including vitamin and mineral supplements and herbal medicines.
186

187 **What should I avoid while taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapies?**

- 188 • If you are pregnant do not start taking PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy.
189 • Avoid becoming pregnant while taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL.
190 PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL may harm your unborn child (death or serious birth
191 defects) or cause you to lose your baby (miscarry). **If you or your partner becomes**
192 **pregnant during treatment or during the 6 months after treatment with PEG-**
193 **Intron/REBETOL combination therapy, immediately report the pregnancy to your**
194 **health care provider. You or your health care provider should call (800) 727-7064. By**
195 **calling this number, information about you and/or your partner will be added to a pregnancy**
196 **registry that will be used to help you and your health care provider make decisions about**
197 **your treatment for hepatitis in the future. You, your partner, and/or your health care provider**
198 **will be asked to provide follow-up information on the outcome of the pregnancy.**
199
- 200 • Do not breast-feed your baby while taking PEG-Intron.
201

202 **What are the possible side effects of PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL**
203 **combination therapy?**
204

205 **Possible, serious side effects include:**

206 **Mental health problems including suicide, blood problems, heart problems, body organ**
207 **problems. See "What is the most important information I should know about PEG-Intron**
208 **and PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy?"**
209

210 **Other body organ problems. A few patients have lung problems (such as pneumonia or**
211 **inflammation of the lung tissue), inflammation of the kidney, and eye disorders.**
212

213 **New or worsening autoimmune disease. Some patients taking PEG-Intron or PEG-**
214 **Intron/REBETOL develop autoimmune diseases (a condition where the body's immune cells**
215 **attack other cells or organs in the body), including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus**
216 **erythematosus, and psoriasis. In some patients who already have an autoimmune disease, the**
217 **disease worsens on PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy.**
218

219 **Common but less serious side effects include:**
220

221 **Flu-like symptoms. Most patients who take PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy**
222 **have "flu-like" symptoms (headache, muscle aches, tiredness, and fever). Some of these**
223 **symptoms (fever, headache) usually lessen after the first few weeks of therapy. You can**
224 **reduce some of these symptoms by injecting your PEG-Intron dose at bedtime. Over-the-**
225 **counter pain and fever reducers, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, can be used to prevent**
226 **or reduce the fever and headache.**
227

228 **Extreme fatigue (tiredness). Many patients become extremely tired while on PEG-Intron or**
229 **PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy.**



230

231

Appetite problems. Nausea, loss of appetite, and weight loss, occur commonly.

232

233

Thyroid problems. Some patients develop changes in the function of their thyroid. Symptoms of thyroid changes include the inability to concentrate, feeling cold or hot all the time, a change in your weight, and changes to your skin.

234

235

236

237

Blood sugar problems. Some patients develop problems with the way their body controls their blood sugar, and may develop high blood sugar or diabetes.

238

239

240

Skin reactions. Redness, swelling, and itching are common at the site of injection. If after several days these symptoms do not disappear contact your health care provider. You may get a rash during therapy. If this occurs, your health care provider may recommend medicine to treat the rash.

241

242

243

244

245

Hair thinning. Hair thinning is common during PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL treatment. Hair loss stops and hair growth returns after therapy is stopped.

246

247

248

These are not all of the side effects of PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy. Your health care provider or pharmacist can give you a more complete list.

249

250

251

General advice about prescription medicines:

252

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. If you have any concerns about PEG-Intron, ask your health care provider. Your health care provider or pharmacist can give you information about PEG-Intron that was written for health care professionals. Do not use PEG-Intron for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medication with other people.

253

254

255

256

257

258

If you are taking PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy, also read the Medication Guide for REBETOL (ribavirin, USP) Capsules.

259

260

261

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

262

263

264

How do I prepare and inject the PEG-Intron Redipen® Dose?

265

266

The PEG-Intron Redipen® system is for a single use, by one person only, once a week. The Redipen® must not be shared. Use only the injection needle provided in the packaging for the

267

268

269

PEG-Intron Redipen® system. If you have problems with the Redipen® system or the PEG-Intron solution, you should contact your health care provider, or pharmacist.

270

271

272

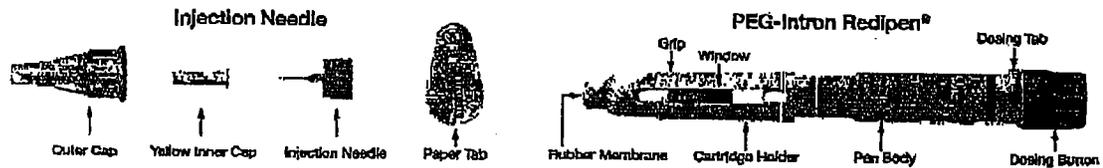
The following instructions explain how to prepare and inject yourself with the PEG-Intron Redipen® system. Please read the instructions carefully and follow them step by step. Your health care provider will instruct you on how to self-inject with the PEG-Intron Redipen®.

273

274



275 Do not attempt to inject yourself unless you are sure you understand the procedure and
276 requirements for self-injection.



277
278

279 **How to use the PEG-Intron Redipen® single-dose delivery system.**
280

281 **Storing PEG-Intron**

282 PEG-Intron Redipen® should be stored in the refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F); avoid
283 exposure to heat. After mixing, the PEG-Intron solution should be used immediately but may
284 be stored in the refrigerator up to 24 hours at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F). The solution
285 contains no preservatives. **DO NOT FREEZE.**
286

287 **Preparation**

288

- 289 1. Find a clean, well-lit, non-slip flat working surface and assemble all of the supplies you
290 will need for an injection. All of the supplies you will need are in the PEG-Intron
291 Redipen® package. The package contains:
 - 292 ▪ a PEG-Intron Redipen® single-dose delivery system
 - 293 ▪ one disposable needle
 - 294 ▪ two alcohol swabs, and
 - 295 ▪ Dosing tray; (The dosing tray is the bottom half of the Redipen® package.)
- 296
- 297 2. Take the PEG-Intron Redipen® out of the refrigerator and allow the medicine to come to
298 room temperature. Before removing the Redipen® from the carton, check the expiration
299 date printed on the PEG-Intron Redipen® carton to make sure that the expiration date has
300 not passed. Do not use if the expiration date has passed.
- 301 3. After taking the PEG-Intron Redipen® out of the carton, look in the window of the
302 Redipen® and make sure the PEG-Intron in the cartridge holder window is a white, to off
303 white tablet that is whole, or in pieces, or powdered.
- 304 4. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, rinse, and towel dry. It is important to
305 keep your work area, your hands, and the injection site clean to minimize the risk of
306 infection.



307 1. Mix the Drug

308

309 Key points:

310

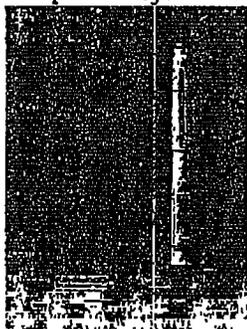
311 Before you mix the PEG-Intron, make sure it is at room temperature. It is important
312 that you keep the PEG-Intron Redipen® UPRIGHT (Dosing Button down) as shown in
313 Figure 1.

314

315 a. Hold the PEG-Intron Redipen® UPRIGHT (Figure 1a) in the dosing tray on a hard,
316 flat, non-slip surface with the dosing button down. You may want to hold the Redipen®
317 using the grip.

318

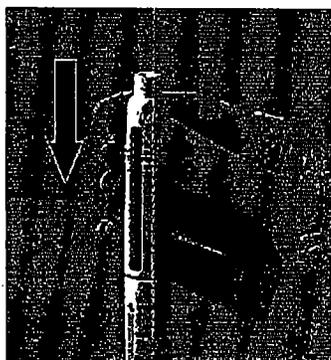
319 b. To mix the powder and the liquid, keep the Redipen® upright in the dosing tray and
320 press the top half of the Redipen® downward toward the hard, flat, non-slip surface until
321 you hear the click (Figure 1b). Once you've heard the click, you will notice in the
322 window that both dark stoppers are now touching. The dosing button should be flush with
323 the pen body.



324

325 Figure 1a

326



327

328 Figure 1b

329

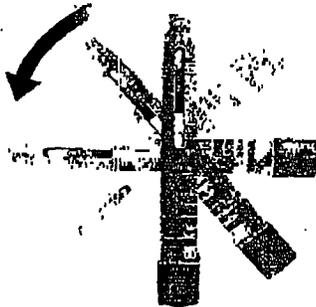
330 c. Wait several seconds for the powder to completely dissolve.

331

332



- 333 d. Gently turn the PEG-Intron Redipen® upside down twice (Figure 2). To avoid
334 excessive foaming, DO NOT SHAKE.



- 335
336 Figure 2

- 337
338 e. Keeping the PEG-Intron Redipen® UPRIGHT, with the dosing button down, check
339 through the Redipen® window to see if the mixed PEG-Intron solution is completely
340 dissolved. The solution should be clear, colorless, and without particles before use. It is
341 normal to see some small bubbles near the top of the solution. Do not use if the solution
342 is not clear, or if you see particles.
343 f. Place the PEG-Intron Redipen® back into the dosing tray provided in the
344 packaging (Figure 3). The dosing button will be on the bottom.
345



Figure 3

- 346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353 2. Attach the Needle

- 354
355 a. Wipe the rubber membrane of the PEG-Intron Redipen® with one alcohol swab.
356 b. Remove the protective paper tab from the injection needle, but do NOT remove either the
357 outer cap or the yellow inner cap from the injection needle. Keeping the PEG-Intron Redipen®
358 UPRIGHT in the dosing tray, FIRMLY push the injection needle straight into the Redipen®



359 rubber membrane, and screw it firmly in place, in a clockwise direction (Figure 4). Remember
 360 to leave the needle caps in place when you attach the needle to the Redipen®. Pushing the
 361 needle through the rubber membrane, "primes" the needle and allows the extra liquid and air in
 362 the pen to be removed.
 363



364
 365
 366
 367
 368
 369
 370
 371
 372
 373
 374
 375
 376
 377
 378
 379
 380
 381
 382

Figure 4

NOTE: Some fluid will trickle out. This is normal. The dark stoppers move up and you will no longer see the fluid in the window once the needle is successfully primed.

c. **IMPORTANT:** Keep the Redipen® in the UPRIGHT position and keep the outer needle cap on until you are ready to inject.

3. Dialing the Dose

a. **Remove the PEG-Intron Redipen® from the dosing tray (Figure 5a).**

Holding the PEG-Intron Redipen® firmly, pull the dosing button out as far as it will go. You will see a dark band.

Do not push the dosing button in until you are ready to self-inject the PEG-Intron dose.



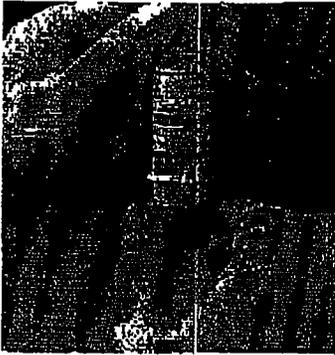


Figure 5a

383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391

b. Turn the dosing button until your prescribed dose is lined up with the dosing tab (Figure 5b). The dosing button will turn freely. If you have trouble dialing your dose, check to make sure the dosing button has been pulled out as far as it will go (Figure 5c).

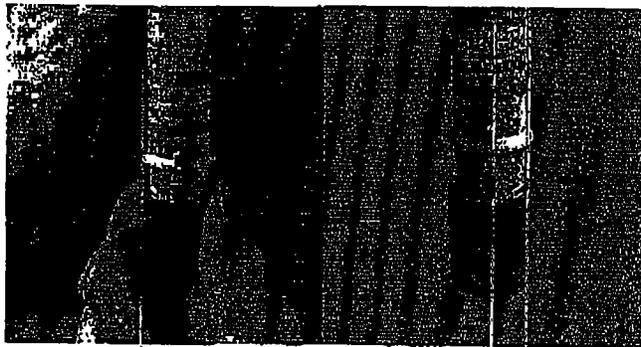


Figure 5b

Figure 5c

392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400

c. Carefully lay the PEG-Intron Redipen® down on a hard, flat, non-slip surface. Do NOT remove either of the needle caps and do NOT push the dosing button in until you are ready to self-inject the PEG-Intron dose.

401 **4. Injecting the PEG-Intron Dose**

402 **Choosing an Injection Site**

403 The best sites for giving yourself an injection are those areas with a layer of fat between
404 the skin and muscle, like your thigh, the outer surface of your upper arm, and abdomen.
405 Do not inject yourself in the area near your navel or waistline. If you are very thin, you
406 should only use the thigh or outer surface of the arm for injection.
407



408 You should use a different site each time you inject PEG-Intron to avoid soreness at any
409 one site. Do not inject PEG-Intron into an area where the skin is irritated, red, bruised,
410 infected, or has scars, stretch marks, or lumps.

411

412 a. Clean the skin where the injection is to be given with the second alcohol swab provided,
413 and wait for the area to dry.

414 b. Remove the outer cap from the needle (Figure 6a). There may be some liquid around the
415 yellow inner needle cap (Figure 6b). This is normal.

416

417

418



419

420 Figure 6a

Figure 6b

421

422

423 c. Once the injection site is dry, remove the yellow inner needle cap (Figure 6c). You are
424 now ready to inject.

425



426

427 Figure 6c

428

429 d. Hold the PEG-Intron Redipen[®] with your fingers wrapped around the pen body
430 barrel and your thumb on the dosing button (Figure 7).

431

- With your other hand, pinch the skin in the area you have cleaned for injection.



- 432
- 433
- 434
- 435
- 436
- Insert the needle into the pinched skin at an angle of 45° to 90°.
 - Press the dosing button down slowly and firmly until you can't push it any further.
 - Keep your thumb pressed down on the dosing button for an additional 5 seconds to ensure that you get the complete dose.
 - Remove the needle from your skin.



437

438 Figure 7

439

440 e. Gently press the injection site with a small bandage or sterile gauze if necessary for a
441 few seconds but do not massage the injection site. If there is bleeding, cover with an
442 adhesive bandage. **DO NOT RECAP THE NEEDLE and DO NOT REUSE the**
443 **Redipen®.**

444

445 **How do I Dispose of the Redipen®?**

446 Discard the Redipen® and needle and any solution remaining in the Redipen® in a sharps
447 container or other puncture-resistant container like a metal coffee can. DO NOT use glass or
448 clear plastic containers. Ask your health care provider how to dispose of a full container.
449 Always keep the container out of reach of children.

450

451 **After 2 hours, check the injection site for redness, swelling, or tenderness.**
452 **If you have a skin reaction and it doesn't clear up in a few days, contact**
453 **your health care provider.**

454

455

456 Manufactured by: Schering Corporation, Kenilworth, NJ 07033 USA

457 DATE 2/05

458



1 MEDICATION GUIDE**2 PEG-Intron ®****3 Peginterferon alfa-2b****4**
5 Including appendix with instructions for using PEG-Intron ® Powder for Injection**6**
7 Read this Medication Guide carefully before you start taking PEG-Intron (Peg In-tron) or
8 PEG-Intron/REBETOL (REB-eh-tole) combination therapy. Read the Medication Guide
9 each time you refill your prescription because there may be new information. The
10 information in this Medication Guide does not take the place of talking with your health care
11 provider (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant).**12**
13 If you are taking PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy, also read the
14 Medication Guide for REBETOL (ribavirin, USP) Capsules.**15**
16 What is the most important information I should know about PEG-Intron and
17 PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy?**18**
19 PEG-Intron (peginterferon) is a treatment for some people who are infected with hepatitis C
20 virus. However, PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy can have
21 serious side effects that may cause death in rare cases. Before you decide to start treatment,
22 you should talk to your health care provider about the possible benefits and side effects of
23 PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy. If you begin treatment you will
24 need to see your health care provider regularly for medical examinations and lab tests to
25 make sure your treatment is working and to check for side effects.**26**
27 REBETOL capsules may cause birth defects and/or death of an unborn child. If you
28 are pregnant, you or your male partner must not take PEG-Intron/REBETOL
29 combination therapy. You must not become pregnant while either you or your partner
30 are being treated with the combination PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy, or for 6
31 months after stopping therapy. Men and women should use birth control while taking
32 the combination therapy and for 6 months afterwards. If you or your partner are being
33 treated and you become pregnant, either during treatment or within 6 months of
34 stopping treatment, call your health care provider right away.**35**
36 If you are taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy you should call your
37 health care provider immediately if you develop any of these symptoms:**38**
39 New or worsening mental health problems, such as thoughts about killing or hurting
40 yourself or others, trouble breathing, chest pain, severe stomach or lower back pain,
41 bloody diarrhea or bloody bowel movements, high fever, bruising, bleeding, or
42 decreased vision.**43**
44 The most serious possible side effects of PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy
45 include:**46**

47 **Problems with Pregnancy.** Combination PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy can cause
48 **death, serious birth defects, or other harm to your unborn child. If you are a woman**
49 **of childbearing age, you must not become pregnant during treatment and for 6 months**
50 **after you have stopped therapy. You must have a negative pregnancy test immediately**
51 **before beginning treatment, during treatment and for 6 months after you have stopped**
52 **therapy. Both males and female patients must use effective forms of birth control**
53 **during treatment and for the 6 months after treatment is completed. Male patients**
54 **should use a condom. If you are a female, you must use birth control even if you believe**
55 **that you are not fertile or that your fertility is low. You should talk to your health care**
56 **provider about birth control for you and your partner.**

57
58 **Mental health problems and suicide.** PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapies
59 may cause patients to develop mood or behavioral problems. These can include irritability
60 (getting easily upset) and depression (feeling low, feeling bad about yourself, or feeling
61 hopeless). Some patients may have aggressive behavior. Former drug addicts may fall back
62 into drug addiction or overdose. Some patients think about hurting or killing themselves or
63 other people and some have killed (suicide) or hurt themselves or others. You must tell your
64 health care provider if you are being treated for a mental illness or had treatment in the past
65 for any mental illness, including depression and suicidal behavior. You should tell your
66 health care provider if you have ever been addicted to drugs or alcohol.

67
68 **Heart problems.** Some patients taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy may
69 develop problems with their heart, including low blood pressure, fast heart rate, and very
70 rarely, heart attacks. Tell your health care provider if you have had any heart problems in the
71 past.

72
73 **Blood problems.** PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapies commonly lower two
74 types of blood cells (white blood cells and platelets). In some patients, these blood counts
75 may fall to dangerously low levels. If your blood counts become very low, this could lead to
76 infections or bleeding.

77
78 REBETOL therapy causes a decrease in the number of red blood cells you have (anemia).
79 This can be dangerous, especially for patients who already have heart or circulatory
80 (cardiovascular) problems. Talk with your health care provider before taking combination
81 PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy if you have, or have ever had any cardiovascular problems.

82
83 **Body organ problems.** Certain symptoms like severe stomach pain may mean that your
84 internal organs are being damaged.

85
86 *For other possible side effects, see "What are the possible side effects of PEG-Intron and*
87 *PEG-Intron/REBETOL" in this Medication Guide.*

88
89 **What is PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy?**

90 The PEG-Intron product is a drug used to treat adults who have a lasting (chronic) infection
91 with hepatitis C virus and who show signs that the virus is damaging the liver.



92 PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy consists of two medications also used to treat
93 hepatitis C infection. Patients with hepatitis C have the virus in their blood and in their liver.
94 PEG-Intron reduces the amount of virus in the body and helps the body's immune system
95 fight the virus. REBETOL (ribavirin) is a drug that helps to fight the viral infection but does
96 not work when used by itself to treat chronic hepatitis C.

97
98 It is not known if PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapies can cure hepatitis C
99 (permanently eliminate the virus), or if it can prevent liver failure or liver cancer that is
100 caused by hepatitis C infection.

101
102 It is also not known if PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy will
103 prevent one infected person from infecting another person with hepatitis C.

104
105 **Who should not take PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy?**

106 Do not take PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy if you:

- 107 • are pregnant, planning to get pregnant during treatment or during the 6 months after
108 treatment, or breast-feeding
- 109
- 110 • are a male patient with a female sexual partner who is pregnant or plans to become
111 pregnant at any time while you are being treated with REBETOL or during the 6
112 months after your treatment has ended.
- 113
- 114 • have hepatitis caused by your immune system attacking your liver (autoimmune
115 hepatitis) or unstable liver disease
- 116
- 117 • had an allergic reaction to another alpha interferon or are allergic to any of the
118 ingredients in PEG-Intron or REBETOL Capsules. If you have any doubts, ask your
119 health care provider.
- 120
- 121 • Do not take PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy if you have abnormal red
122 blood cells such as sickle-cell anemia or thalassemia major.
- 123

124 **If you have any of the following conditions or serious medical problems, discuss them**
125 **with your health care provider before taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL**
126 **therapy:**

- 127 • depression or anxiety
- 128 • sleep problems
- 129 • high blood pressure
- 130 • previous heart attack, or other heart problems
- 131 • liver problems (other than hepatitis C infection)
- 132 • any kind of autoimmune disease (where the body's immune system attacks the body's
133 own cells), such as psoriasis, systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis
- 134 • thyroid problems
- 135 • diabetes
- 136 • colitis (inflammation of the bowels)



- 137 • cancer
- 138 • hepatitis B infection
- 139 • HIV infection
- 140 • kidney problems
- 141 • bleeding problems
- 142 • alcoholism
- 143 • drug abuse or addiction
- 144 • body organ transplant and are taking medicine that keeps your body from rejecting your
- 145 transplant (suppresses your immune system).
- 146
- 147

148 **How should I take PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL?**

149 Your health care provider will decide whether you will take PEG-Intron therapy alone or the
150 combination of PEG-Intron/REBETOL, as well as the correct dose (based on your weight).
151 PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL are given for one year. Take your prescribed dose of
152 PEG-Intron once a week, on the same day of each week and at approximately the same time.
153 Take the medicine for the full year and do not take more than the prescribed dose.
154 REBETOL Capsules should be taken with food. When you take REBETOL with food, more
155 of the medicine (70% more on average) is taken up by your body. You should take
156 REBETOL the same way every day (twice a day with food) to keep the medicine in your
157 body at a steady level. This will help your health care provider to decide how your treatment
158 is working and how to change the number of REBETOL capsules you take if you have side
159 effects from REBETOL. **Be sure to read the Medication Guide for REBETOL**
160 **(ribavirin, USP) for complete instructions on how to take the REBETOL capsules.**

161
162 You should be completely comfortable with how to prepare PEG-Intron, how to set the dose
163 you take, and how to inject yourself before you use PEG-Intron for the first time. PEG-
164 Intron comes in two different forms, a powder in a single-use vial and a Redipen[®] single-use
165 delivery system. See the attached appendix for detailed instructions for preparing and giving
166 a dose of PEG-Intron.

167
168 If you miss a dose of the PEG-Intron product, take the missed dose as soon as possible during
169 the same day or the next day, then continue on your regular dosing schedule. If several days
170 go by after you miss a dose, check with your health care provider about what to do. Do not
171 double the next dose or take more than one dose a week without talking to your health care
172 provider. Call your health care provider right away if you take more than your prescribed
173 PEG-Intron dose. Your health care provider may wish to examine you more closely, and
174 take blood for testing.

175
176 If you miss a dose of REBETOL capsules, take the missed dose as soon as possible during
177 the same day. If an entire day has gone by, check with your health care provider about what
178 to do. Do not double the next dose.

179
180 You must get regular blood tests to help your health care provider check how the treatment is
181 working and to check for side effects.

182



183 Tell your health care provider if you are taking or planning to take other prescription or non-
184 prescription medicines, including vitamin and mineral supplements and herbal medicines.
185

186 **What should I avoid while taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapies?**

- 187 • If you are pregnant do not start taking PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy.
188 • Avoid becoming pregnant while taking PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL.
189 PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL may harm your unborn child (death or serious birth
190 defects) or cause you to lose your baby (miscarry). If you or your partner becomes
191 pregnant during treatment or during the 6 months after treatment with PEG-
192 Intron/REBETOL combination therapy, immediately report the pregnancy to your
193 health care provider. You or your health care provider should call (800) 727-7064. By
194 calling this number, information about you and/or your partner will be added to a pregnancy
195 registry that will be used to help you and your health care provider make decisions about
196 your treatment for hepatitis in the future. You, your partner and/or your health care provider
197 will be asked to provide follow-up information on the outcome of the pregnancy.
198
- 199 • Do not breast-feed your baby while taking PEG-Intron.
200

201 **What are the possible side effects of PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL**
202 **combination therapy?**
203

204 **Possible, serious side effects include:**

205 **Mental health problems including suicide, blood problems, heart problems, body organ**
206 **problems.** See "What is the most important information I should know about PEG-Intron
207 and PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy?"
208

209 **Other body organ problems.** A few patients have lung problems (such as pneumonia or
210 inflammation of the lung tissue), inflammation of the kidney, and eye disorders.
211

212 **New or worsening autoimmune disease.** Some patients taking PEG-Intron or PEG-
213 Intron/REBETOL develop autoimmune diseases (a condition where the body's immune cells
214 attack other cells or organs in the body), including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus
215 erythematosus, and psoriasis. In some patients who already have an autoimmune disease, the
216 disease worsens on PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy.
217

218 **Common but less serious side effects include:**
219

220 **Flu-like symptoms.** Most patients who take PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL therapy
221 have "flu-like" symptoms (headache, muscle aches, tiredness and fever). Some of these
222 symptoms (fever, headache) usually lessen after the first few weeks of therapy. You can
223 reduce some of these symptoms by injecting your PEG-Intron dose at bedtime. Over-the-
224 counter pain and fever reducers, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, can be used to prevent
225 or reduce the fever and headache.
226

227 **Extreme fatigue (tiredness).** Many patients become extremely tired while on PEG-Intron or
228 PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy.



229

230 **Appetite problems.** Nausea, loss of appetite, and weight loss, occur commonly.

231

232 **Thyroid problems.** Some patients develop changes in the function of their thyroid.
233 Symptoms of thyroid changes include the inability to concentrate, feeling cold or hot all the
234 time, a change in your weight, and changes to your skin.

235

236 **Blood sugar problems.** Some patients develop problems with the way their body controls
237 their blood sugar, and may develop high blood sugar or diabetes.

238

239 **Skin reactions.** Redness, swelling, and itching are common at the site of injection. If after
240 several days these symptoms do not disappear contact your health care provider. You may
241 get a rash during therapy. If this occurs, your health care provider may recommend
242 medicine to treat the rash.

243

244 **Hair thinning.** Hair thinning is common during PEG-Intron and PEG-Intron/REBETOL
245 treatment. Hair loss stops and hair growth returns after therapy is stopped.

246

247 These are not all of the side effects of PEG-Intron or PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination
248 therapy. Your health care provider or pharmacist can give you a more complete list.

249

250 **General advice about prescription medicines:**

251 Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication
252 Guide. If you have any concerns about PEG-Intron, ask your health care provider. Your
253 health care provider or pharmacist can give you information about PEG-Intron that was
254 written for health care professionals. Do not use PEG-Intron for a condition for which it was
255 not prescribed. Do not share this medication with other people.

256

257 **If you are taking PEG-Intron/REBETOL combination therapy, also read the**
258 **Medication Guide for REBETOL (ribavirin, USP) Capsules.**

259

260 *This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.*

261

262 Manufactured by: Schering Corporation, Kenilworth, NJ 07033 USA

263

264

265 **How do I prepare and inject the PEG-Intron Dose?**

266 Before you inject PEG-Intron, the powder must be mixed with 0.7 mL of the supplied
267 DILUENT for PEG-Intron, Sterile Water for Injection (diluent). You should carefully follow
268 the directions given to you by your health care provider.

269

270 The vial of mixed PEG-Intron should be used immediately. DO NOT prepare more than one
271 vial at a time. If you don't use the vial of the prepared solution right away, it must be stored
272 in a refrigerator and used within 24 hours.

273

274 **Storing PEG-Intron**



275 PEG-Intron Powder should be stored at room temperature (25 ° C, 77°F); avoid exposure to
276 heat. After mixing, the PEG-Intron solution should be used immediately but may be stored
277 in the refrigerator up to 24 hours. The solution contains no preservatives. DO NOT
278 FREEZE.

279 **Preparing the PEG-Intron solution**

280

281 1. Find a clean, well-lit, non-slip flat working surface and assemble all of the supplies you
282 will need for an injection. All of the supplies you will need for an injection are in the
283 PEG-Intron Powder for Injection package. The package contains:

284 ■ a vial of PEG-Intron powder

285

286 ■ a 1.25 mL vial of DILUENT

287

288 ■ 2 disposable syringes, and

289

290 ■ alcohol swabs

291

292 2. Check the date printed on the PEG-Intron carton to make sure that the expiration date
293 has not passed. Remove one vial and look at the contents. The PEG-Intron in the vial
294 should appear as a white to off-white tablet-like solid, that is whole/in pieces or as a
295 loose powder.

296

297 If you have already mixed the PEG-Intron solution and it has been stored properly in the
298 refrigerator, take it out of the refrigerator and allow the solution to come to room
299 temperature.

300

301 3. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, rinse and towel dry. It is important to
302 keep your work area, your hands and injection site clean to minimize the risk of
303 infection.

304

305 The disposable syringes have needles that are already attached and cannot be removed.
306 Each syringe has a clear plastic safety sleeve that is pulled over the needle for disposal
307 after use. The safety sleeve should remain tight against the flange while using the
308 syringe and moved over the needle only when ready for disposal. Figure A.

309

310 The syringes and needles are for single use only.



311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343

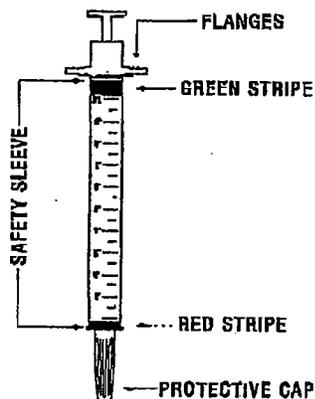


Figure A

4. Remove the protective wrapper from ONE of the syringes provided and use for the following steps 5-7. Make sure that the syringe safety sleeve is sitting against the flange. (see Figure A).

5. Remove the protective plastic cap from the tops of both the supplied DILUENT and the PEG-Intron vials. Clean the rubber stopper on the top of both vials with an alcohol swab.

6. Carefully remove the protective cap straight off of the needle to avoid damaging the needle point. Fill the syringe with air by pulling the plunger to 0.7 mL (Figure B). Hold the DILUENT vial upright. Do not touch the cleaned top of the vial with your hands. (Figure C). Insert the needle through the center of the rubber stopper of the DILUENT vial, and inject the air from the syringe into the vial (Figure D). Turn the vial upside down and make sure the tip of the needle is in the liquid. Withdraw only 0.7 mL of DILUENT by pulling the plunger back to 0.7 mL mark on the side of the syringe. (Figure E). . . Remove the needle from the vial (Figure F). **Discard the remaining DILUENT.**

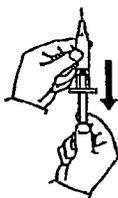


Figure B

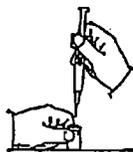


Figure C

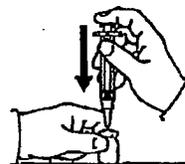


Figure D

344
345



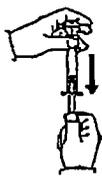


Figure E

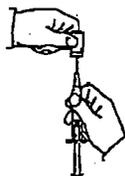


Figure F

346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385

7. Insert the needle through the center of the rubber stopper of the PEG-Intron vial, and place the needle tip against the glass wall of the vial (Figure G). SLOWLY inject the 0.7 mL DILUENT so that the stream of DILUENT runs down the side of the vial. To prevent bubbles from forming, DO NOT AIM THE STREAM of diluent directly on the tablet-like SOLID or POWDER in the bottom of the vial. Remove the needle from the vial.

Firmly grasp the safety sleeve and pull it over the exposed needle until you hear a click. The green stripe on the safety sleeve will completely cover the red stripe on the needle. (See Figure O in the section: "Injecting the PEG-Intron dose.") Discard the syringe and needle in the puncture proof container.

8. GENTLY swirl the vial in a gentle circular motion (Figure H), until the PEG-Intron is completely dissolved. DO NOT SHAKE the vial. If any powder remains undissolved in the vial, gently turn the vial upside down until all of the powder is dissolved. It is not unusual for the solution to appear cloudy or bubbly for a few minutes. If air bubbles do form, wait until the solution has settled and all bubbles have risen to the top before withdrawing your dose from the vial.



Figure G



Figure H

9. After the solution has settled and is completely dissolved it should be clear, colorless and without particles, but there may be a ring of foam or bubbles on the surface, this is normal. Do not use it if you see particles or the color is not correct.

10. After the PEG-Intron powder is dissolved but before you withdraw your dose, clean the rubber stopper again with an alcohol swab.



- 386 11. Unwrap the second syringe provided. You will use it to give yourself the injection.
 387 Carefully remove the protective cap from the needle and fill the syringe with air by pulling
 388 the plunger to the number on the side of the syringe (mL) that corresponds to your prescribed
 389 dose (Figure J). Hold the PEG-Intron vial upright. DO NOT touch the cleaned top of the
 390 vial with your hands (Figure K). Insert the needle into the vial containing the PEG-Intron
 391 solution and inject the air into the center of the vial. (Figure L).
 392

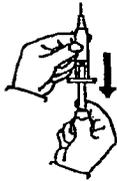


Figure J

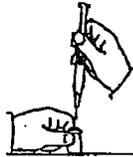


Figure K

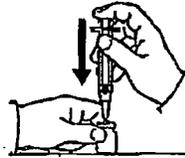


Figure L

393
 394
 395
 396
 397
 398
 399
 400
 401
 402
 403

12. Turn the PEG-Intron vial upside down. Be sure the tip of needle is in the PEG-Intron
 solution. While holding the vial and syringe with one hand slowly pull the plunger back to
 withdraw the exact amount of PEG-Intron into the syringe your health care provider told you
 to use (Figure M).

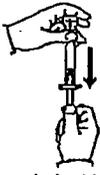


Figure M

404
 405
 406
 407
 408
 409
 410
 411

13. Remove the needle from the vial (Figure N) and check for air bubbles in the syringe. If
 you see any bubbles, hold the syringe with the needle pointing up and gently tap the syringe
 gently until the bubbles rise. Then push the plunger in slowly until the bubbles disappear.



412 Figure N
 413



414

415 **Injecting the PEG-Intron Dose**416 **Selecting the Site for Injection.**

417 The best sites for giving yourself an injection are those areas with a layer of fat between the
418 skin and muscle, like your thigh, the outer surface of your upper arm, and abdomen. Do not
419 inject yourself in the area near your navel or waistline. If you are very thin, you should only
420 use the thigh or outer surface of the arm for injection.

421

422 You should use a different site each time you inject PEG-Intron to avoid soreness at any one
423 site. Do not inject PEG-Intron solution into an area where the skin is irritated, red, bruised,
424 infected or has scars, stretch marks or lumps.

425

426 14. Clean the skin where the injection is to be given with an alcohol swab, and wait for the
427 area to dry. Remove the protective cap from the needle. Make sure the safety sleeve of the
428 syringe is pushed firmly against the syringe flange so that the needle is fully exposed (see
429 **Figure A**).

430

431 15. With one hand, pinch a 2-inch fold of loose skin. With your other hand, pick up the
432 syringe and hold it like a pencil. Position the bevel of the needle facing up and insert the
433 needle approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch into the pinched skin at approximately a 45 to 90 degree angle
434 with a quick dart-like thrust. After the needle is in, remove the hand that you used to pinch
435 your skin and use it to hold the syringe barrel. Pull the plunger of the syringe back very
436 slightly. If blood comes into the syringe, the needle has entered a blood vessel. **Do not**
437 **inject**. Withdraw the needle and discard the syringe as outlined in step 17. Repeat the above
438 steps with a new vial to prepare a new syringe and inject the medicine at a new site. If no
439 blood is present in the syringe, inject the medicine by gently pressing the plunger all the way
440 down the syringe barrel.

441

442 16. Hold an alcohol swab near the needle and pull the needle straight out of the skin. Press
443 the alcohol swab over the injection site for several seconds. Do not massage the injection
444 site. If there is bleeding, cover it with a bandage.

445

446 17. After injecting your dose, firmly grasp the safety sleeve and pull it over the exposed
447 needle until you hear a click, and the green stripe on the safety sleeve covers the red stripe on
448 the needle (**Figure O**). Discard the syringe and needle in the Sharp's container supplied to
449 you.

450

451

452

453

454

455

456

457

458

459

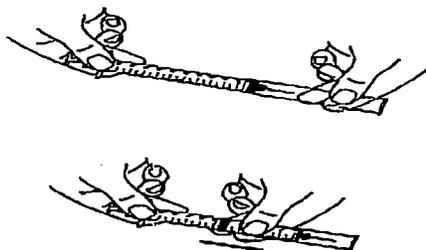


Figure O



460 18. After 2 hours, check the injection site for redness, swelling, or tenderness. If you have a
461 skin reaction and it doesn't clear up in a few days, contact your health care provider or nurse.
462

463 **How do I dispose of the used syringes and needles?**

464 Discard used safety lock syringes and needles in a Sharp's container or other puncture proof
465 container like a coffee can. DO NOT USE glass or clear plastic containers. Your health care
466 provider or nurse will tell you how to dispose a full container. Always keep the container out
467 of reach of children.
468

469

470

