

Dear Primary Care Provider,

Your patient will be receiving **Zoledronic Acid (Zometa®)** every 6 months for the next 5 years as part of their adjuvant therapy. It is important to be aware that although they are still receiving treatment at CancerCare Manitoba or a Community Cancer Program site, **their follow-up care will be your responsibility.**

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## Things to know about Zoledronic Acid

- › Zoledronic Acid will be used as part of anticancer treatment for selected early stage breast cancer patients (postmenopausal, pre-menopausal requiring ovarian suppression) to prevent breast cancer from coming back or reoccurring elsewhere in the body.

## Common Side Effects of Zoledronic Acid

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A flu-like reaction is common and usually appears within 3 days of receiving treatment, and goes away within a few days.

### The symptoms include:

- › fever, fatigue, bone pain and/or muscle aches, joint swelling

### Other symptoms the patient may experience include:

- › nausea, diarrhea, headache, dizziness, cough or shortness of breath

**Please be in contact with your patient's cancer team if the patient presents to you with any of these symptoms that are bothersome to the patient or don't go away within a few days.**

## Warnings & Precautions

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Serious side effects have occurred with the use of zoledronic acid. **These include:**

### › Osteonecrosis of the jaw

- › Notify your patient's cancer team immediately if they present with any signs or symptoms of osteonecrosis of the jaw, such as teeth, mouth, or jaw pain or swelling, loosening of teeth, and the feeling of numbness or heaviness in the jaw.
- › It is important that your patient practices good dental hygiene and has regular check-ups with their dentist while being treated with zoledronic acid.
- › If your patient requires dental work of any kind they must notify their dentist/dental hygienist that they are on zoledronic acid.

### › Decrease in kidney function

- › The cancer team will monitor your patient's kidney function with a blood test prior to each dose of zoledronic acid.

### › Low calcium levels in your body

- › Your patient will be advised if they should take a calcium and vitamin D supplement by their cancer team.