





# **GETTING STARTED**

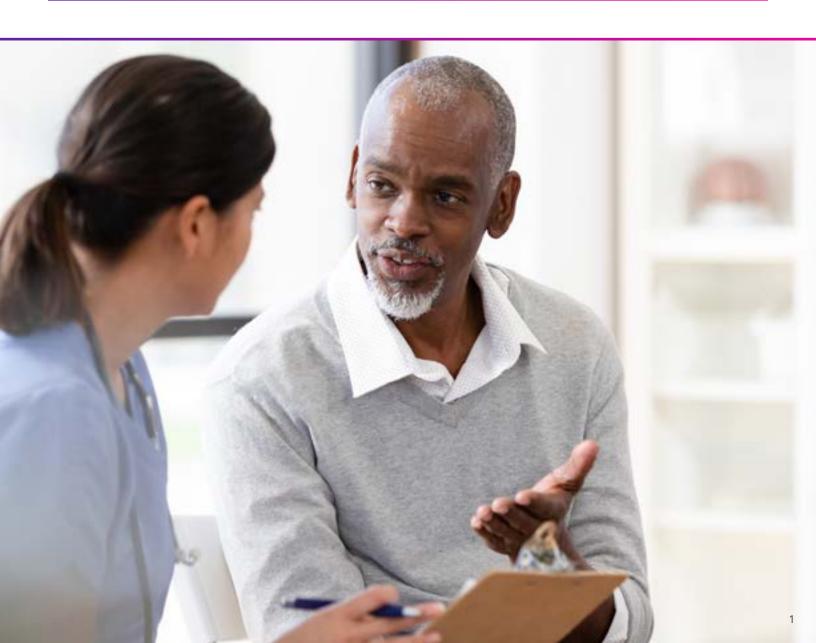
Your healthcare professional has prescribed you with REBLOZYL – and you may have questions about this medication.

This brochure has been designed to help you gain a better understanding of REBLOZYL, including how it works, how it is taken, potential side effects, as well as tips for taking care of yourself.

You may find that the more you know, the better equipped you will be to play an active role with your healthcare team.



Keep in mind that this booklet is not meant to substitute any guidance, advice, or help provided by your healthcare team. Please refer to the Patient Medication Information leaflet at the end of this booklet.



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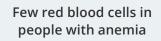
Use the *Take note* section at the back of this booklet to write down any questions you may have and how you are feeling. Share this information with your healthcare professional so that you can get answers and keep track of your health together.

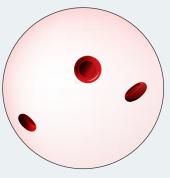


### What is REBLOZYL?

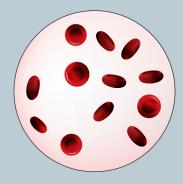
PrREBLOZYL® (luspatercept) is used in adults who have low red blood cell counts (anemia) and require red blood cell transfusions due to a blood and bone marrow disorder called myelodysplastic disease syndromes with ring sideroblasts. It is used in people who have not responded to or are not able to receive erythropoietin therapies.

Ring sideroblasts are a type of immature red blood cell with granules of iron that have accumulated in the mitochondria and surround the nucleus of the cell. The iron-laden mitochondria form a "ring" formation around the nucleus.





More red blood cells present in people without anemia





Anemia is a condition that occurs when there are fewer mature, working red blood cells or a low amount of hemoglobin

### How does REBLOZYL work?

REBLOZYL may improve red blood cell production and increases hemoglobin levels – reducing the need for red blood cell transfusions.



REBLOZYL should not be used if you are allergic to luspatercept or any other ingredients of this medication

For a complete list of the ingredients, refer to the Patient Medication Information leaflet at the end of this booklet

If you are not sure, talk to your healthcare professional before using REBLOZYL

# WHAT TO TELL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

# BEFORE STARTING TREATMENT

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional about any conditions you may have before taking REBLOZYL, including if you:



### Have or previously had high blood pressure, since it may increase with REBLOZYL

 Your blood pressure will be monitored before REBLOZYL administration and throughout treatment



### Are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby

- Do not use REBLOZYL if you are pregnant as it may cause harm to your unborn baby
- Your healthcare professional may arrange a pregnancy test before treatment
- Females of childbearing potential should use an effective method of contraception during treatment with REBLOZYL and for at least 3 months after their last dose
- If you are a woman, REBLOZYL may cause fertility problems, which may affect your ability to have a baby
  - Talk to your healthcare professional for advice before taking REBLOZYL



### Are breastfeeding or are planning to breastfeed

- Do not breastfeed when using this medication and for at least 3 months after your last dose
- It is unknown if REBLOZYL passes into breastmilk



Keep a list of all the medications you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements, or alternative medications to share with your healthcare professional



# HOW YOU WILL BE TREATED WITH REBLOZYL

REBLOZYL is given as an injection under the skin. The injections are given by a doctor, nurse, or other healthcare professional.

- Before receiving treatment, you will have a blood test to measure your hemoglobin levels
- If your hemoglobin is too high, you may not receive REBLOZYL at your visit
- Your blood pressure will also be monitored before each administration of this medication and throughout treatment

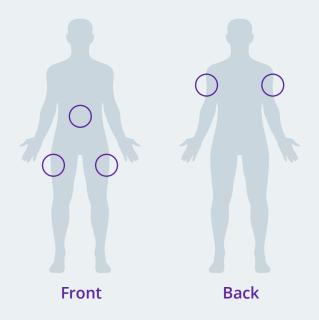
Your healthcare professional will determine the appropriate dose for you, based on your body weight:

- The recommended starting dose is 1.0 mg/kg of body weight once every 3 weeks
- The highest recommended dose is 1.75 mg/kg of body weight once every 3 weeks

Your healthcare professional will check your progress and may change your dose, if needed.

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# **Possible injection sites**



# The injection may be given in:

- Upper arm
- Thigh
- Abdomen



### What to do in the case of a missed dose

In the case of a missed or delayed injection of REBLOZYL, you will receive an injection as soon as possible and your dose will continue as prescribed – with at least 3 weeks between doses

# POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF REBLOZYL

The following are side effects that have occurred in people receiving REBLOZYL:

Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)	Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)
Dizziness, headache	Muscle pain
<ul> <li>Fatigue (feeling tired/weak, low energy)</li> </ul>	Flu-like symptoms
• Cough	<ul> <li>Upper respiratory tract infections</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Diarrhea, nausea or constipation</li> </ul>	Decreased appetite
Back pain	<ul> <li>Increase in blood sugar levels</li> </ul>
<ul><li>Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath</li><li>Infection of the bladder (urinary tract infection)</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Injection site reactions: Redness, burning and pain at the site of the injection</li> </ul>

# Serious common side effects that may occur include:

- Anemia (decrease in red blood cells)
  - Symptoms include: Tiredness/fatigue
- Basal cell carcinoma (certain types of skin cancer)
  - Symptoms include: Changes in the appearance of your skin or growths on your skin
- · Heart problems including:
  - Cardiac failure
    - Symptoms include: Shortness of breath, swelling of legs, ankles and feet, rapid heartbeat, coughing/wheezing with white/pink phlegm
  - Angina
    - Symptoms include: Chest pain/discomfort
  - AV block
    - Symptoms include: Chest pain, dizziness/ fainting, fatigue, shortness of breath, feeling that the heart skips a beat

- Kidney failure
  - Symptoms include: Lack of urine, shortness of breath, confusion, swelling of legs, ankles, feet, drowsiness/fatigue, nausea
- Pneumonia
  - Symptoms include: Fever, chills, fatigue, cough, shortness of breath, coughing up thick yellow or green mucous, fast heartbeat
- Progression of MDS to acute myeloid leukemia (AML)
  - Symptoms include: Fever, bone pain, fatigue, shortness of breath, unusual bleeding, easy bruising
- Sepsis (overwhelming infection)
  - Symptoms include: Fever, chills, very low body temperature, decreased urine, rapid heartbeat, rapid breathing, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea



Keep in mind that these are not all the possible side effects that may occur. Talk to your healthcare professional about any side effects that you may experience.



# LIFESTYLE TIPS: REMEMBER TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

It is important to take care of yourself – this means eating well, getting some exercise, and learning to relax to help improve your overall health and wellness.

# **Nutrition tips**

Getting a balance between different food types is important for your general health. Eating a variety of foods can help you feel better and stay stronger.

# A healthy diet is comprised of:



# **Carbohydrates**

The body's main source of energy **Sources include:** Breads, cereals, oatmeal, rice, and pasta



### **Fibre**

Promotes healthy digestion **Sources include:** Fruits, vegetables, whole-wheat bread, cereals, and brown rice



### **Proteins**

Important for growth and tissue repair **Sources include:** Lentils, meat, fish, beans, tofu, eggs, and peanut butter



### **Fats**

Help absorb certain vitamins and essential fatty acids **Sources include:** Oils (olive, coconut, avocado, etc.), butter, nuts, and seeds



Some people with MDS may need to follow a special diet if they have a very low white blood cell count or are undergoing a stem cell transplant. Talk to your healthcare professional about any diet modifications you may require.

# LIFESTYLE TIPS: REMEMBER TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

## **Get active**

Physical activity is an essential part of an overall healthy lifestyle.

Some activities to consider performing include:







**Swimming** 



**Water aerobics** 



Tai Chi



**Brisk walking** 



Talk to your healthcare professional about the level of exercise that is most appropriate for you

# **Practice good hygiene**

To help prevent developing an infection, try:

- Washing your hands often
- Using moisturizing lotions to soften the skin and avoid cracks
- Using hand sanitizer particularly in public places
- Using an electric shaver to avoid cutting yourself
- Cleaning any cut or scrape immediately with warm water and soap
- Avoiding crowds and people who are sick
- Avoiding eating/handling raw foods



Use this section to help keep track of any appointments with your healthcare professional, including when you are to receive treatment.

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# **TAKE NOTE**

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# **TAKE NOTE**





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