**Traztuzumab (tras TU zoo mab)**

**Patient Education**

US Brand Names: **Herceptin**
Therapeutic Category: monoclonal antibody, targeted therapy

**What is this medicine used for?**
Used to treat cancer. More specifically this particular drug is used to treat advanced breast cancer whose tumors over-express the HER-2/neu protein.

**How does it work?**
Traztuzumab works by reacting with a marker on the surface of a breast cancer cell that expresses HER-2/neu protein. This medicine targets the cells with the HER-2/neu protein marker and kills the cell.

**What should my doctor or nurse know before I take this medication?**
- If you are allergic to any medicines.
- If you are taking other over the counter or prescription medicines, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- If you are, or may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.

**How is this drug given?**
- This medicine can be used alone or in combination with other cancer medicine.
- This medicine is given into a vein.

**What are the general precautions when taking this medicine?**
- Talk with your doctor or nurse before taking aspirin, aspirin-containing products, over the counter or prescription medications, including vitamins and herbal remedies.
- Drink 8 to 10 glasses of non-caffeinated liquid every day (unless told otherwise by your doctor or nurse).
- If you or your partner can get pregnant, use birth control during your treatment. Once completing treatment, discuss the timing for discontinuing birth control measures with your provider. (See Patient Teaching Sheet: Fertility)

**What are the common side effects of this medicine?**
- Allergic reaction infusion-related. Symptoms can include fever and chills (most often).
Treatment with Tylenol and benadryl and/or meperidine is usually effective.

- Pain at tumor site.

**Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:**

- Signs or symptoms of infection. This include a fever of 100.4 F (38 C) or greater, chills, severe sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, increased sputum or change in color, painful urination, mouth sores, wound that will not heal, or anal itching or pain.
- Severe nausea or vomiting or diarrhea not controlled by medication.
- Not able to eat or drink.
- Bleeding from your nose, mouth, gums, or in your urine or bowel movements. Bruising that does not heal.
- Feeling extremely tired, weak, dizzy or light headed.
- Go to your nearest emergency room for signs of a life-threatening reaction: wheezing, chest tightness, fever, itching, bad cough, blue skin color, seizures, or swelling of face, lips, tongue or throat.