Talking with Educators

If your school-age child has primary immunodeficiency disease (PIDD), it's important that other adults he or she comes in contact with—teachers, school nurses, and administrators—understand the condition and its treatment. You can download a sample letter and personalize it for your child's teachers.

Help educators understand PIDD

Explain that PIDD stands for “primary immunodeficiency disease,” a genetic condition that people are born with

Be sure to explain that PIDD is not contagious and cannot be spread to other children or adults. Sometimes people hear the word “immunodeficiency” and think of the AIDS virus, which is a secondary immunodeficiency. Reassure your child's educators that your child poses no risk to other children

Clarify that other children can affect the health of your child

Describe how common germs can be especially harmful—even life-threatening—to your child's health

Let educators know that your child can participate in classroom and playground activities

Ask educators to help minimize your child's exposure to germs

Ask educators to encourage sick children to stay home from school

Request that classmates who do come to school ill be sent to the nurse's office, sent home, or relocated to the opposite side of the classroom

Appeal to the educator to reinforce good hygiene and encourage children to wash their hands after sneezing, blowing their noses, or using the washroom

Stress that educators be alert to potential problems

Ask educators to contact you if your child appears overly tired, feverish, or chilled. In particular, your child may be susceptible to upper respiratory infections, such as sinus, ear, and bronchial infections, and even pneumonia. Symptoms of these infections might include, for example, cough, congestion, runny nose, earache, or difficulty breathing

Request that school personnel contact you if your child complains of a headache, sinus pain, fatigue, or difficulty breathing

Let educators know that local injection-site reactions—including bruises that occur around injection sites—may occur, particularly in people who are new to subcutaneous infusions. Explain that these local reactions should clear up with time and are only abnormal if they become increasingly red, warm to the touch, or painful

Important Safety Information

Immune Globulin Subcutaneous (Human), Hizentra®, treats various forms of primary immunodeficiency (PI) in patients age 2 and over.

Hizentra should not be used if you have had serious negative reactions to immune globulin (Ig) preparations or a deficiency of an Ig known as IgA. Because Hizentra contains the amino acid proline as stabilizer, patients with hyperprolinemia (too much proline in the blood) should not take Hizentra.

Infuse Hizentra under your skin *only*; do not inject into a blood vessel.

Allergic reactions can occur with Hizentra. If your doctor suspects you are having a bad allergic reaction or are going into shock, treatment will be discontinued. Immediately tell your doctor or go to the emergency room if you have signs of such a reaction, including hives, trouble breathing, wheezing, dizziness, or fainting.

Tell your doctor about any side effects that concern you. Your doctor will monitor for potentially serious reactions that have been seen with Ig treatment, including thrombotic events (blood clotting); aseptic meningitis syndrome (brain swelling); osmotic nephropathy (a kidney condition); hemolysis (a blood problem) and transfusion-related acute lung injury.

The most common drug-related adverse reactions in the clinical trial for Hizentra were injection-site reactions (swelling, pain, redness, heat or itching); headache; back pain; diarrhea; tiredness; cough; rash; itching; nausea and vomiting.

Hizentra is made from components of human blood. The risk of transmission of infectious agents, including viruses and, theoretically, the Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) agent, cannot be completely eliminated.

Vaccines (such as measles, mumps and rubella) might not work as well if you are using Hizentra. Before receiving a vaccination, tell the healthcare professional that you are being treated with Hizentra. Also tell your doctor if you are pregnant or nursing, or if you plan to become pregnant.

Please see full prescribing information **for Hizentra, including the** patient product information**.**

You are encouraged to report negative effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.