Myelosuppression, the reduction of platelets and red and white blood cells, is the most common side effect of chemotherapy. Filgrastim and pegfilgrastim are used to assist recovery in patients with low white blood cell counts. This article explores the dosing, efficacy, cost, and clinical considerations of filgrastim and pegfilgrastim in neutropenia care. Increased knowledge of the medications may contribute to positive patient outcomes. As the price of hospitalization increases, prophylactic dosing of filgrastim and pegfilgrastim becomes more cost effective. In addition, clinical outcomes are improved through a reduction in length of hospital stays and the need for IV antibiotic administration.

At a Glance
- Filgrastim and pegfilgrastim are colony-stimulating factors that shorten time to neutropenic recovery in patients receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy.
- Treatment benefits of filgrastim and pegfilgrastim include the prevention of neutropenic fever, the ability to adhere to chemotherapy schedules, and fewer hospital stays.
- Although filgrastim and pegfilgrastim have a high retail value, the rising price of hospital stays may outweigh their cost.