

# ***The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society***

## *Fighting Blood Cancers*

### **MYELOMA TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

**Autologous stem cell transplant** A procedure in which a patient's own stem cells from the bone marrow or peripheral blood are collected, stored and reinfused following high-dose chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy.

**Allogeneic stem cell transplant** A procedure in which stem cells from another person's bone marrow or peripheral blood are collected, stored and infused into the patient following high-dose chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy. The donor is nearly always a match in tissue type to the recipient.

**High-dose chemotherapy** Administration of higher, more effective doses of chemotherapy. Because high-dose chemotherapy destroys the bone marrow, a stem cell transplant is required to replenish blood-forming bone marrow cells.

**Monoclonal (M) protein** Identical immunoglobulin protein produced by myeloma cells. M protein is found in the blood or urine and is used as a marker for the amount of myeloma disease present in the body.

**Remission** A disappearance of evidence of disease, usually as a result of treatment. Complete remission means all evidence-of disease is gone. Partial remission means the disease has been improved by treatment, but evidence of the disease lingers.

**Responsive disease** Myeloma that is responding to therapy, with a decrease in M protein of at least 50 percent.

#### **Stable disease**

Myeloma that has not progressed or gotten worse.

**Refractory. disease** Disease that does not go into remission or improve substantially after Initial treatment with standard therapy.

#### **Relapse**

A return of disease after it had been in remission following treatment.

**Progressive disease** Active myeloma that is worsening, that is, increasing M protein and worsening organ or tissue impairment. Relapsed and/or refractory disease might be considered to be progressive disease.

**For additional information, call the**

**Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's  
Information Resource Center at**

**(800) 955-4572 or visit [www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org).**