

Advice for Rheumatology patients prescribed Biologics by intravenous infusion

You are being prescribed biologic medication by your Rheumatology Consultant. You will be contacted by the Rheumatology Day Unit to arrange a date for your infusion.

General advice:

- Inform all healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists) that you are on biologic treatment (show your alert card).
- Avoid live vaccines (including shingles vaccine) - always check with your GP / Practice Nurse.
- We do advise you have the annual 'flu vaccine and regular pneumonia vaccine available from your GP (these are not live vaccines).
- Ensure you have blood tests every..... (if you require blood forms call our advice-line and we will send to you).
- Ensure you attend your clinic appointments (if you cannot attend let us know as soon as possible so we can offer the appointment to another patient).

Infection:

- If you suspect you have an infection see your GP promptly (symptoms may include fever, productive cough, feeling unwell). Contact the emergency out of hours GP if required.
- If you suspect you have an infection or are on antibiotics please ensure you inform the Day Unit staff if your infusion is scheduled.

Changes in health:

- Contact our advice line if you have any changes in your health so we can ensure that your Rheumatology medication does not impact on any new diagnoses or new treatments.
- Inform us of any planned surgery so that we can advise withholding the Biologic to reduce the risk of infection.

Biologics advice line number on 01603 287786

Rheumatology Day Unit number 01603287818

Failure to have regular blood tests and / or to attend clinic appointments will result in us no longer being able to prescribe your biologic medication.

