

## Advice for Rheumatology patients prescribed Biologics by Self - Administration

You are being prescribed .....to be taken every.....by tablet/injection. Your treatment will be delivered to you by our homecare provider who will contact you to arrange a time for delivery (and for a nurse to teach you how to self-inject if applicable).

### General Advice:

- Inform all healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists) that you are on 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:

- Do not take your treatment if you suspect you have an infection and see your GP promptly if you develop symptoms of infection (e.g. fever, productive cough, feeling unwell). Contact the emergency out of hours GP if required.
- If you require antibiotics do not take your treatment - this helps your immune system to fight the infection and you may recover more quickly.
- You may restart you treatment if you have completed your course of antibiotics (if prescribed) AND you have no symptoms of infection.

### 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. Inform your surgeon that you are taking a treatment drug as the date for surgery will need to be planned around the last dose to reduce risks of infection.

**Biologics advice line number 01603 287786**

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

