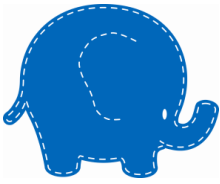


Department of Pharmacy

Infliximab

Switching from Remicade<sup>®</sup> to Remsima<sup>®</sup> for the treatment of  
inflammatory bowel disease

Information for young people



**Why have I been given this leaflet?**

You have been receiving infusions of a brand of infliximab called **Remicade<sup>®</sup>**.

Alder Hey is now changing to use a brand of infliximab called **Remsima<sup>®</sup>**.

You will have the opportunity to discuss this with your consultant or nurse specialist before the change.

**Why am I going to receive a different brand of infliximab?**

When infliximab was first used, there was only one brand available - **Remicade<sup>®</sup>**.

Now other brands of infliximab (biosimilars) have become available. One of these biosimilars is **Remsima<sup>®</sup>**.

**Remsima<sup>®</sup>** is better value for money for the NHS. Therefore we are switching patients already on **Remicade<sup>®</sup>** to **Remsima<sup>®</sup>**.

**What is a biosimilar?**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined a biosimilar (also called a similar biotherapeutic product) as a drug that is similar in terms of quality, safety and efficacy (effectiveness) to the original licensed product<sup>1</sup>.

This means that biosimilar medicines such as **Remsima<sup>®</sup>** work just as well and are just as safe as the original (**Remicade<sup>®</sup>**).

**Remsima<sup>®</sup>** is being used in lots of hospitals in the UK and the rest of Europe. Here at Alder Hey, it has been given to some of our gastroenterology patients since the middle of 2016. We haven't seen any unexpected problems.

**What will this mean for me?**

- Your treatment will not change. **Remsima<sup>®</sup>** and **Remicade<sup>®</sup>** contain the same medicine (infliximab).
- You will have your infliximab at the same regular intervals as before. For example, if you usually have your infliximab infusion every eight weeks, this will not change.
- As usual, while you have the infusion you will have your temperature, heart rate, breathing rate and blood pressure checked. You will still need to have your usual blood tests.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.who.int/biologicals/areas/biological\\_therapeutics/BIO\\_THERAPEUTICS\\_FOR\\_WEB\\_22APRIL2010.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/biologicals/areas/biological_therapeutics/BIO_THERAPEUTICS_FOR_WEB_22APRIL2010.pdf?ua=1)

## What will change?

- If you usually have your **Remicade**<sup>®</sup> (infliximab) infusion over one hour, you will get your first infusion of **Remsima**<sup>®</sup> (infliximab) over two hours. This is to make sure you don't have any problems with **Remsima**<sup>®</sup>.
- As usual, we will be doing some tests to make sure everything is going OK with your treatment but you won't have any more tests than usual. You will have the levels of infliximab in your blood and the levels of calprotectin in your faeces (poo) checked before your first **Remsima**<sup>®</sup> (infliximab) infusion, before your fourth infusion of **Remsima**<sup>®</sup> (infliximab) and after you have been receiving **Remsima**<sup>®</sup> (infliximab) for one year.

## Where can I get more information?

You can speak to your nurse or doctor. Your parent or carer has been given more information so you can ask them to share it with you. <http://napp.co.uk/products/patients/inflammatory-conditions/>

This leaflet is based on the information contained in 'Changing from Remicade<sup>®</sup> to Remsima<sup>®</sup> - My guide to changing infliximab' (NAPP)

## Who to contact for further details

This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss your individual treatment with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your treatment.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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