

Further information can be obtained from:

Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases
Upper Borough Walls
Bath
BA1 1RL

Phone RA and AS patients:
01225 473408

PsA patients
01225 473483

Website : www.rnhrd.nhs.uk

We value your feedback.

Your comments, suggestions, praise and compliments will help us to improve the standard of our services.

Please contact PALS to feedback your views on the hospital.

Tel 01225 473424 or email PALS@rnhrd.nhs.uk

www.rnhrd.nhs.uk

Royal National Hospital for
Rheumatic Diseases
Upper Borough Walls, Bath
BA1 1RL

Your Min

Rheumatology

Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases

Patient Information Leaflet

Biologics Service

Version 3

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Royal United Hospitals Bath 

NHS Foundation Trust

Welcome to the Biologics Service

You and your consultant have decided that the next stage of treatment for you is with a biologic drug. The consultant or one of their team will have started the assessment process by either performing a joint count, the disease activity score (DAS) or a Bath Disease activity index (BASDAI). This is to confirm that your disease is active and that you meet initial criteria for the medication.

What happens next?

Once you and the consultant have made the decision to start biologic treatment you will be referred to the specialist nurse. Depending on your condition your appointment will be in approximately one month (RA and PsA) or after three months (AS), the length of time between assessments is set by NICE.

When you see the nurse you will be reassessed. If you are still eligible for the medication the options will be discussed and you will be provided with written information about them. At present the medication options are either by injection's given by you under the skin (subcutaneous) or by infusion in hospital.

Various investigations including blood tests and X-rays will be requested to complete the screening process.

Once the medication has been chosen and you have signed the consent form we may contact your Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to request funding for the medication. This part of the process may take some time.

What happens after I start the medication?

We ask that you let us know after you have had the first dose. You will be sent an appointment to see the specialist nurse three – four months later. At that visit the effectiveness of the medication will be assessed using the same assessment tools as before. You will be reassessed at six months

If you have responded positively and your disease remains well controlled you will continue on treatment and have six monthly appointments.

If you have AS you can either complete your assessment online or the questionnaire can be sent out for you to complete between appointments. This is to reduce the number of times you have to come to the hospital.

The assessments are very important and it is essential for continuation of treatment that they are completed accurately and on time. This will demonstrate to the CCG that you are responding to treatment to ensure continuation of funding.

Your treatment could be withdrawn if you do not attend your appointments.

If you no longer require your medication please contact your specialist nurse and we will arrange for it to be collected

Nurse Specialists

The clinical nurse specialists for the Biologic Service are
Debbie Bond – RA and AS
Nicola Waldron - PsA

How can a specialist nurse help?

We are here to offer patients and their families support and advice as part of the biologics team. We will listen to your concerns and talk about the treatment plan.

We are also accessible between appointments if you have any queries or concerns. Please see the contact details on the back page