

# Ocrevus (Ocrelizumab) Infusion Patient Guide

**This leaflet explains more about your Ocrevus infusions. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.**

## **What is Ocrevus?**

Ocrevus is a Disease Modifying Treatment (DMT) which is used to treat Relapsing Remitting Multiple Sclerosis. It is given as an intravenous infusion every six months; the first dose is split into two separate infusions, which are given on day one and day 15.

## **Where do I need to go?**

The infusions are given in our Infusion Lounge, which is situated in Willow Annex, Perimeter Road, St George's Hospital.

The infusion is usually given as an outpatient and you will be in the Infusion Lounge for approximately six hours.

The telephone number for the infusion lounge is 020 8266 6913.

## **What pre-screening needs to be done?**

When you choose Ocrevus as your DMT, there are several pre-screening tests which will need to be completed prior to you starting the medication.

If you find it helpful, tick off the appointments/tests as they have been completed.

<b>Pre-screening</b>	<b>Completed?</b>	<b>Date?</b>
Ocrevus specific blood tests		
MRI scan		
Chest X-ray		
Consent with Consultant Neurologist		

**I will start my infusions on:**

.....

**I must stop my previous medication on:**

.....

Do you take medication to lower your blood pressure? If you take medication to lower your blood pressure, please tell the MS Therapies Nurse. You may be asked not to take it 12 hours before the infusion and during the infusion.

**When will I get my appointment letter?**

Your appointment letter for the infusion will not arrive until two weeks before you are due to start. If you require a letter before this date, please contact the patient pathway coordinator on 020 8725 1796.

**What can I expect on the day of my infusion?**

When all your pre-screening has been completed, you will be contacted with a start date for your infusions. These phone calls will show up as a withheld number. Please let us know if you would prefer to be contacted via e-mail (you will need to sign our e-mail disclaimer form prior to any correspondence).

On the infusion day, the MS Therapies nurse will introduce themselves to you. The nurse will ensure that all necessary checks have been completed and that they are happy for you to commence your infusion.

Before the infusion the nurse will ask you for a urine sample to rule out any infection. Then they will insert a cannula (a small, plastic tube) into your arm and it is through this that you will have your infusion. The infusion will take around five hours in total including the pre-medications that will help to reduce any side-effects you may experience.

During your infusion and for one hour afterwards your blood pressure and pulse will be monitored every 30 minutes. If they remain stable you will be discharged home and will come back two weeks later for the second dose. Following the second dose you will come every six months for an infusion.

### **Handy to know before your infusion**

Here is a list of suggestions to help prepare yourself for your infusion:

- Each day ensure you are wearing comfortable clothes with either short sleeves or sleeves which are easy for you to roll up
- Tea, coffee, water, biscuits and a limited selection of sandwiches are available in the infusion suite. If you prefer you can bring in your own food each day. We have both a refrigerator and microwave available. There are also shops selling food throughout the hospital such as *Marks and Spencer*, *Pret a Manger*, *Peabody's* and the hospital canteen.
- The infusion day can be quite long and so we would suggest that you bring plenty of things to do such as books to read, a tablet on which to watch films, puzzle books, colouring books,

music to listen to, your phone or your laptop. Wi-Fi is available.

- To help protect patients and staff from Coronavirus (Covid-19) visitors are not allowed on the infusion lounge.
- If someone is driving you to your appointment each day, please let the MS Therapies nurse know and they will provide you with a parking form to reduce the parking cost to £10 per week.
- Infusion related reactions such as tiredness and feeling sick are common and therefore we advise you not to drive yourself home after your infusion.

### **Handy to know after your infusion**

- The most common side effect of Ocrevus is infections. If you notice any signs of infection such as a cough, fever or herpes (cold sore, shingles and genital sores), please tell your General Practitioner.
- After Ocrevus you should not have any live vaccines. If you plan to go on a holiday that would require vaccination, please contact your MS nurse for individual advice.
- You will be required to attend blood test monitoring at St George's hospital, two weeks before every infusion.
- It is vital that you attend your monitoring appointments. The MS Therapies nurse will go through what to look out for in more detail. If you have any concerns contact your MS nurse.

### **Contact us**

If you have any questions or concerns about your Ocrevus infusion please contact the MS team Co-ordinator on 020 8725 2104 or your MS nurse directly.

**For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.stgeorges.nhs.uk](http://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk)**

## **Additional services**

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

**Tel:** 020 8725 2453 **Email:** [pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

### **NHS Choices**

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health. **Web:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### **NHS 111**

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones. **Tel:** 111

### **AccessAble**

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website ([www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



Reference: NEU\_OPG\_LP\_02 Published: August 2022 Review date: August 2024