

# RoActemra and Biosimilars

## Switching from RoActemra to Tyenne

This leaflet offers information about your medicines for your rheumatological condition and our plan to switch your treatment from RoActemra to Tyenne. If you have any further questions or concerns after reading this leaflet, please speak to the Diane Hill Biologics Coordinator (020 8266 6801) or Christina Oviawe Biologics Nurse (020 8266 6807).

## Why am I receiving this leaflet?

You are currently undergoing treatment with RoActemra (Tocilizumab). You may be aware that the patent for the originator Tocilizumab expired in 2024 and that generic versions of Tocilizumab (called **biosimilar drugs**) which you are currently taking are available. You are receiving this leaflet because NHS England is recommending a biosimilar switch with the aim of making the most of NHS resources.

## What is a biosimilar?

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined a biosimilar as **a drug that is similar in terms of quality, safety, and efficacy (effectiveness) to the original licensed product**. This means that biosimilars (such as Tyenne) are allowed to have small structural differences from the original licensed product (RoActemra) but this must not alter how well the drug works, how safe it is or how the drug reacts with the body's immune system.

Biosimilars are regulated similarly to the original licensed product. The European Medicines Agency has approved the use of Tyenne as it has been shown to be as safe and as effective as RoActemra.

We are confident that Tyenne is just as effective, has the same safety profile as RoActemra and offers significant cost savings for the NHS.

## What does this mean for me?

Because Tyenne and RoActemra contain the same active product (Tocilizumab), treatment for your rheumatological condition remains unchanged.

Like RoActemra, Tyenne is administered by subcutaneous injection, and can be given either by pre-filled pen or pre-filled syringe. You should inject Tyenne as frequently as you currently inject RoActemra. Your Tyenne prescriptions and delivery to your home will be managed by a different company called Health Net.

## Will any additional monitoring be required?

We are not required to make any additional safety checks in patients switched to Tyenne but we still plan to monitor every patient who switches. You will be contacted by telephone by a member of the rheumatology team eight weeks after you switch for us to check that Tyenne is working just as well as RoActemra and to follow up on any issues you may have encountered. If you do have a problem with Tyenne, either finding it to be less effective or you have difficulties with the injection device, injection reactions or other side effects, then it may be possible to switch back to RoActemra.

## What if I have further questions?

If you have concerns about switching to Tyenne, we are here to help. Please ask Diane, the Biologics Coordinator or Christina, the Biologics nurse. If necessary, they will arrange an appointment with to answer any further questions you may have.

## Contact us.

If you have any further questions, please contact the outpatient rheumatology clinic on **020 8266 6801 - Diane Hill** or **020 8266 6807- Christina Oviawe** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or you can email [Anti-TNF.enquiries@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:Anti-TNF.enquiries@stgeorges.nhs.uk).

**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)**

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## Additional services

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or care. You can contact the PALS team on the advisory telephone line Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

A Walk-in service is available:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 4pm

Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Please contact PALS in advance to check if there are any changes to opening times.

The Walk-in and Advisory telephone services are closed on Wednesdays.

PALS is based within the hospital in the ground floor main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing.

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

### NHS UK

NHS UK 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.



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