

# Adalimumab and biosimilars

## Switching to different biosimilars

This leaflet provides information about your medicines for your inflammatory bowel disease and our plan to switch the brands of your treatment. If you have any further questions or concerns after reading this leaflet, please speak to the IBD team via email on [IBDPharmacist@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:IBDPharmacist@stgeorges.nhs.uk). Please note that if we do not hear from you by 26<sup>th</sup> July your next prescription will be automatically switched to a new biosimilar brand.

### Why am I receiving this leaflet?

You are currently undergoing treatment with the biological medicine Adalimumab. The original biological medicine was known by the brand name Humira. Since 2018, different adalimumab brands (also known as biosimilars) have become available. You are receiving this leaflet because NHS England is recommending a biosimilar switch across the UK with the aim of making the most of NHS resources.

### What is a biosimilar?

A biosimilar medicine is designed to be a near identical copy of an approved biologic therapy, which has been shown not to have any clinically meaningful differences from the **originator medicine** in terms of quality, safety and efficacy. Where National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has already recommended the originator medicine, the same guidance will normally apply to a biosimilar.

Biosimilars go through the regulations and clinical trials in the same way to the original licensed product via the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

### What does this mean for me?

All brands contain the same active product and amount of Adalimumab and therefore the treatment for your condition remains unchanged. There is a useful link in Crohn's and Colitis UK outlining the principles of biosimilar switches ([New 'biosimilar' drugs for adalimumab made available on NHS \(crohnsandcolitis.org.uk\)](https://www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk)).

The injection device may differ slightly depending on the brand. If you are using an unfamiliar injection device, training will be provided for you to ensure you are comfortable using your new device.

All brands will be delivered via a homecare company directly to your nominated address. The homecare company may change depending on what brand of biosimilar you are prescribed; however the process will stay the same and you will be unaffected by this change. Your information will be automatically transferred onto your new homecare provider who will contact you to arrange deliveries.

The new brand is called Yuflyma (adalimumab) and comes in 40mg and 80mg strengths. This will be delivered by the homecare company Personal Homecare Pharmacy (PHP).

If you experience any problems with your new brand, such as difficulties with the injection device, injection reactions or other side effects then please speak to a member of our IBD team for further advice.

## Will any additional monitoring be required?

We are not required to make any additional safety checks. Your regular monitoring regimen will continue as agreed with your clinical team.

## What are the next steps?

If we do not hear from you by the **26<sup>th</sup> July**, you will be automatically switched onto the alternative adalimumab brand and homecare company at your next prescription renewal.

If you have concerns about switching to another biosimilar, we are here to help. Please speak to the IBD team via the [IBDPharmacist@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:IBDPharmacist@stgeorges.nhs.uk) and state your full name and date of birth or hospital number. Please note your emails will be answered **in August** and no changes will occur to your prescription until we have resolved your query.

Please note that biosimilars are becoming increasingly available and so your branding may once again change in the future. If **after** you have switched you need to get in touch with us, please do so by emailing the [IBDAdviceline@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:IBDAdviceline@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**

The NHS website 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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