

## How do I collect my tablets and get my blood tested in the future?

If your blood test results have been stable during the first 3 months since starting the new tablets, your GP will be informed. All future prescriptions for the tablets will be provided by your GP and can be collected from a local chemist shop/pharmacy. Monthly monitoring of your blood tests will be done by your GP.

If your blood tests results **have not** been stable during the first 3 month's you will continue to collect your tablets from the hospital dispensary and continue with 2 weekly blood tests.

This is the agreement that has been ratified across Surrey, in agreement with GPs and the CCG Surrey Prescribing Clinical Network.

## Reference source

Chakravarty et al Rheumatology 2008; 47: 924-5

## Contact details

### Clinical Nurse Specialist

Rheumatology, Royal Surrey County Hospital

**Telephone:** 01483 571122 **ext** 4672

### RSCH Pharmacy Department

**Telephone:** 01483 402653

Royal Surrey County Hospital (RSCH) NHS Foundation Trust fully subscribes to the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) *Being Open* best practice framework, November 2010.

## PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located in far left corner as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

**Telephone:** 01483 402757

**Email:** rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

**Opening hours:** 9.00am–4.00pm  
Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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## Your drug monitoring programme



## Rheumatology Department

### **It is important you follow the instructions given in this leaflet.**

This leaflet explains important information about your first prescription of one or more of the following drugs. Methotrexate, Leflunomide, Sulfasalazine and Hydroxychloroquine.

One or more of these drugs have been recommended by your physician to treat your rheumatic condition during your clinic appointment.

### **Where do I get my prescription from?**

A prescription for the first three months of your new tablets will be completed by the doctor/nurse during your Outpatient clinic appointment at the hospital.

Please take this prescription to the Pharmacy department at the hospital (this prescription can only be processed at the hospital). It is important that you give an up-to-date contact telephone number to the pharmacy staff.

You will be given a Arthritis Research UK leaflet outlining the benefits and possible side effects, of the drug you have been prescribed by your doctor or when you collect your tablet.

### **Whose responsibility is it to get my blood tests done?**

**When you start taking your new drug is it very important that you have your blood tested every 2 weeks for the first 8 weeks.**

Take the drug for the first time and have your blood tested 2 weeks later. Blood tests can be done either at the hospital (walk in service 08.00–16.30hrs) or at your GP surgery but you will need to make an appointment.

### **It is your responsibility to arrange to have your blood tests completed**

You will be given 6 blood test request forms (white with blue titles with a plastic bag attached) with your prescription. These forms are prefilled with the relevant information and can be used at the GP surgery or at the hospital. If you require more blood test forms please contact the Rheumatology Department at Royal Surrey County Hospital Helpline **01483 571122** ext **4672**. The times the Helpline is available are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 08.00–09.30 and Thursday 11.00–13.00. The results of your 2 weekly blood tests will be checked by the Royal Surrey Pharmacy Department who will notify yourself and the Rheumatology department of any abnormal results.

For some drugs you will be given a booklet in which to record your blood results. **It is important to record your blood results in the booklet if you have your blood tests done at your GP surgery.**

Certain drugs (Leflunomide) require your blood pressure to be measured and recorded each time you have a blood test. Please ask for your blood pressure measurement to be

written down and given to you and bring to your next Outpatient appointment.

### **Reminder**

**You will only be given your tablets if you have had your blood test done. Ensure the results of your blood tests have been written in the blood monitoring booklet if you have your blood tests done at GP surgery.**

### **How do I collect my tablets?**

#### **Collecting your 1st months' tablets**

Please take the prescription to the hospital dispensary where your prescription will be processed. A member of staff will ask you some questions. It is very important that you give a up-to-date telephone number and address. These details will be used to contact you in the future.

#### **Collecting your 2nd months' tablets**

Please go the hospital dispensary. Remember to take your monitoring booklet with your most recent blood test results written in it. Your blood test results will be checked by a pharmacist to ensure your results are within acceptable limits. You will be given your 2nd months' tablets.

#### **Collecting your 3rd months' tablets**

Please go the hospital dispensary. Remember to take your monitoring booklet with your most recent blood test results written in it. Your blood test results will be checked by a pharmacist to ensure your results are within acceptable limits. You will be given your 3rd months tablets.