



## *The Infusion Service* (1 of 2)

### **What is the Infusion Service?**

The infusion service is a clinic where patients are given intravenous drugs (directly into a vein) without having to be admitted to hospital.

### **Where is it?**

The Infusion Service is located within the rheumatology department which is sign posted off the main corridor on level 3.

### **Prior to your infusion appointment**

Please ensure you have had any blood tests that have been requested prior to your infusion.

If you are feeling unwell, have a cough/cold/sore throat or other infection or are taking antibiotics, it is vital you let us know before your appointment as your treatment may need to be postponed.

If you have recently had or are due to have dental work, please inform us prior to your infusion as your appointment may need to be postponed.

If you have been in contact with an infectious illness e.g. Tuberculosis, shingles, chicken pox, mumps recently then please inform the infusion service as your appointment may need to be delayed.

### **What happens there?**

On arrival

- you will be greeted by a member of the infusion team. A checklist will be completed to make sure that you are well enough for the infusion.
- you may need to provide a urine sample. Please come with a full bladder.
- you will have your blood-pressure, pulse and temperature checked. This will be repeated regularly whilst you have the treatment.
- you will have a cannula (small hollow plastic tube) inserted into a vein. It is inserted using a needle, but the needle is removed once the cannula is in place. Through this cannula, we will give you your medicine.

If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: [customercare@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:customercare@salisbury.nhs.uk)

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: [www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily](http://www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily) or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: [patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk) if you would like a reference list.

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You will sit in a chair during the infusion.

Please eat and drink as normal before and after your infusion. Drinks and biscuits will be provided during your visit but you are welcome to bring your own refreshments if you wish. Please take your normal medication unless you have been advised to stop by a doctor.

## **How long will I be in the clinic?**

This is a busy clinic and we do our best to ensure that we run on time. However we may need to discuss your treatment with a doctor before we can proceed and that may increase the length of your appointment.

The length of time an infusion will take depends upon the medication being given. You are welcome to bring in books, magazines, DVD players etc. to occupy you during your visit. The pumps through which your medication is delivered are fully portable and the toilets are easily accessible throughout your infusion.

Once the infusion is complete your blood pressure will be rechecked and if you feel well, the cannula will be removed and you will be able to go home. After care advice will be given prior to your discharge. If you are having further infusions, your next appointment will be given to you.

You will need to have a blood test two to seven days prior to each infusion unless you have been told otherwise. You will be posted a blood form prior to your first infusion and for all further infusions we will provide you with a blood form when you come to the clinic.

Post infusion advice will be given along with our advice line telephone number.

Depending on the medication you have been given, you may not feel able to drive yourself home. Prior to your first infusion it may be sensible to arrange to be driven home.

The nursing team will keep in contact with your consultant and your GP about your treatment.

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