How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand sanitiser available at the entrance to every ward before coming in to or after leaving the ward. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand sanitiser. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
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Infliximab and biosimilars

Patient information leaflet
If you require a translation of this leaflet please call Pharmacy on 01296 315337

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Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Safe & compassionate care, every time
Infliximab and biosimilars

Switching from Remicade® to Inflectra®

Why am I receiving this leaflet?

You are currently being treated with a medicine called infliximab which has the brand name of Remicade®.

Until recently, Remicade® was the only infliximab brand on the market. Since 2015, other companies have been allowed to produce copies of infliximab. Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust is therefore starting to use a new brand called Inflectra®. The Inflectra® brand is a copy of the Remicade® brand and is a 'biosimilar' of infliximab.

What is a biosimilar?

A biosimilar drug is defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one that is similar in terms of quality, safety and efficacy, to an original, licensed product. Biosimilars are permitted to have small, structural differences from the original but these must not alter how well the drug works, how safe it is or how the drug reacts with the body’s immune system.

What does the product licensing authority say?

Biosimilars are regulated in a similar way to the original licensed product. The European Medicines Agency has approved the use of the infliximab biosimilar Inflectra® brand as it has been shown to be as safe and effective as the Remicade® brand.

Inflectra® is available at a much lower price than Remicade®. To make the best use of our NHS funds, we would like to suggest that patients like you, who are already treated with Remicade®, consider switching to the biosimilar Inflectra®.

What does this mean for me?

Inflectra® and Remicade® contain the same active product, so the treatment of your condition remains unchanged.

Will any additional monitoring be required?

No. We will continue to monitor you for any side effects and disease activity as before. We do not expect any patients to experience problems as a result of switching to Inflectra®. With your consent, we will register your anonymised treatment data on a national database. This is for quality assurance purposes over a prolonged period of time.

What if I have further questions?

We are here to help. Please discuss with:
• your prescriber
• your specialist nurse OR
• Pharmacy Medicines Helpline on 01494 425355.