Infliximab

Reduce direct handling to a minimum and wear appropriate protective clothing.	
Infliximab dosing is weight based; ensure accuracy of documented weight before administration	
Always administer the brand prescribed There are several biosimilars of infliximab available in CUH. Biosimilars must be prescribed by brand (Remicade®, Remsima®, Infectra®) and they are not interchangeable**.**	
CAUTION: High Administration Risk Rating	
Form	**Remicade®** 100 mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion **Remsima®** 100 mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion **Infectra®** 100 mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion
Reconstitution	• Reconstitute each vial with 10mL water for injections, using a syringe equipped with a 21-gauge (0.8mm) or smaller needle to produce a solution containing infliximab 10mg in 1mL. Direct the stream of water for injections to the glass wall of the vial. • Gently swirl the solution by rotating the vial to dissolve the lyophilised powder until the solution is clear. Avoid prolonged or vigorous agitation. **Do not shake** to avoid foam formation. Foaming of the solution on reconstitution is not unusual. • Allow the reconstituted solution to stand for 5 minutes. The reconstituted solution should be colourless to light yellow and opalescent. The solution may develop a few fine translucent particles, as infliximab is a protein. Do not use if opaque particles, discolouration, or other foreign particles are present. • The reconstituted solution **requires further dilution before administration**.
Compatibility & Stability	Sodium Chloride 0.9% **ONLY**
Administration	**IV Infusion** **Doses < 1000mg**: Dilute the required dose of the reconstituted infliximab solution to 250mL with sodium chloride 0.9%. Withdraw a volume of 0.9% sodium chloride from the 250mL infusion bag equal to the calculated volume of reconstituted infliximab. Add the required volume of reconstituted infliximab to the bag. **Doses ≥ 1000mg**: Dilute the required dose of the reconstituted infliximab solution to 500mL with sodium chloride 0.9%. Withdraw a volume of 0.9% sodium chloride from the 500mL infusion bag equal to the calculated volume of reconstituted infliximab Add the required volume of reconstituted infliximab to the bag. • Add the reconstituted dose slowly and gently mix. • Check that the solution is colourless to light yellow and opalescent. The solution may develop a few fine translucent particles, as infliximab is a protein. Do not use if opaque particles, discolouration, or other foreign particles are present. • Connect administration set and **0.2-micron filter** and set pump to required rate. This filter **B Braun Sterifix® 0.2µ Ref 4099303** is available to order from stores • First 3 infusions (induction) administer over 2 hours In **carefully selected adult patients** who have tolerated **at least three initial 2-hour infusions** of Infliximab (induction phase) and are receiving maintenance

	therapy, consideration may be given to administering subsequent infusions over **a period of not less than 1 hour**. If an infusion reaction occurs in association with a shortened infusion, a slower infusion rate may be considered for future infusions if treatment is to be continued.
Documentation Requirements	Document batch numbers and expiry dates of vials in medical notes.
Adverse Drug Reactions	Acute infusion reactions including anaphylactic reactions may develop during (within seconds) or within a few hours following infusion. If acute infusion reactions occur, the infusion must be interrupted immediately. Emergency equipment, such as adrenaline, antihistamines, corticosteroids and an artificial airway must be available.
Disposal	Dispose of infusion bag and administration set in purple-lidded bin.
Additional Information	See **PPG-CUH-CUH-243 Policy Procedure and Guidelines for management of patients attending CUH infusion unit** for intravenous therapy for different administration protocols.

Information provided relates to Remicade®, Remsima®, Inflectra®.