

## 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 two biosimilars of infliximab available in CUH. Biosimilars must be prescribed by brand (Remicade®, Remsima®) and they are not interchangeable. **Remsima® is preferred brand.**

**CAUTION: High Administration Risk Rating**

<b>Form</b>	<b>Remicade®</b> 100 mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion <b>Remsima®</b> 100 mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion
<b>Reconstitution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Gently swirl the solution by rotating the vial to dissolve the lyophilised powder until the solution is clear. Avoid prolonged or vigorous agitation. <b>Do not shake</b> to avoid foam formation. Foaming of the solution on reconstitution is not unusual.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>The reconstituted solution <b>requires further dilution before administration.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Compatibility &amp; Stability</b>	Sodium Chloride 0.9% <b>ONLY</b>
<b>Premedication</b>	Premedication for first 3 doses only OR if history of infusion related reactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Hydrocortisone 100mgs slow IV over 3-5 mins and/or</i></li> <li><i>Chlorphenamine 4mgs PO or Cetirizine 10mg PO or Loratidine 10mg PO and/or</i></li> <li><i>Paracetamol 1g PO</i></li> </ul>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>IV Infusion</b> <b>Doses &lt; 1000mg:</b> Dilute the required dose of the reconstituted infliximab solution <u>to</u> 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. <b>Doses ≥ 1000mg:</b> Dilute the required dose of the reconstituted infliximab solution <u>to</u> 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add the reconstituted dose slowly and gently mix.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

*This information has been summarised to act as a guide for those administering IV medication. The monograph should be used in conjunction with the drug data sheet and BNF for information on dose, adverse effects, cautions and contra-indications.  
 Further information is available from Pharmacy on 22146 or 22542*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect administration set and <b>0.2-micron filter</b> and set pump to required rate. This filter <b>B Braun Sterifix® 0.2µ Ref 4099303</b> is available to order from stores</li> <li>First 2 infusions (induction) administered over 2 hours</li> <li>In patients who have tolerated at least two initial 2-hour infusions of Infliximab (induction phase) and are receiving maintenance therapy, 3rd infusion can be given over 1 hour. Subsequent infusions can be given over 30min/1 hour. This is local policy and agreed with the relevant consultants in the infusion unit.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Documentation Requirements</b>	Document batch numbers and expiry dates of vials in medical notes.
<b>Adverse Drug Reactions</b>	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.
<b>Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vital signs assessment pre and post infusion and every 30 minutes during infusion               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Infusions 1 and 2 observe for 1-hour post infusion</li> <li>➤ For third infusion observe for 30mins post infusion</li> <li>➤ Subsequent infusions no observation required unless clinically indicated.</li> </ul> </li> <li>This is local infusion unit policy and agreed with the relevant consultants.</li> <li>Before the first three infusions, Full Blood Count, Renal/Liver/Bone profile, C Reactive Protein are taken by phlebotomy/GP. Bloods for subsequent infusions are taken on cannulation and are used as a baseline for the next infusion if the patient is well.</li> <li>Trough infliximab levels on consultant selected patients, POC test with immediate (10min) results. Communication and follow up with these results will be with Gastro CNS and consultant. Dose mg/kg and frequency of treatment may be altered</li> <li>If patient is towards the end or just finished antibiotics, they may proceed with infusion if they are well and asymptomatic. Repeat bloods are not required</li> <li>If the patient presents to the unit and meets the criteria in <b>7.7*</b>, medical review may be required prior to reconstituting medication for infusion</li> </ul>
<b>Disposal</b>	Dispose of infusion bag and administration set in purple-lidded bin.
<b>Additional Information</b>	<p>*See <b>PPG-CUH-CUH-243 Policy Procedure and Guidelines for management of patients attending CUH infusion unit</b> for intravenous therapy for different administration protocols.</p> <p>Patient Reminder Cards are available. The Reminder Card contains important safety information that you need to be aware of before and during treatment with Infliximab.  <a href="#">Remicade</a>  <a href="#">Remsima</a></p>

**Information provided relates to Remicade®, Remsima®**

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