

Rheumatology

Subcutaneous Injection

Introduction

We are reviewing patients who have been waiting a long time to help us prioritise those in most urgent need. Please be assured we are doing our utmost to ensure you and your families get the treatment you require as soon as possible. If you used the NHS e-Referral Service to book your appointment it will have given you an indicative appointment and treatment waiting time.

This document will provide you with information on how you can support yourself whilst waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance and advice has been reviewed and approved by clinicians responsible for your care.

Guidance for patients

If you no longer require your appointment please let us know as soon as possible as that will allow us time to offer an earlier appointment to another patient. If you do not have the phone number for the specialty you will be reviewed in but would like to cancel, change your appointment or speak to a staff member please call our switchboard number and they will be able to direct your call to the correct specialty.

Wye Valley Trust – 01432 355444

Further links which may help you manage your condition whilst you await treatment;

- <https://www.patientaccess.com/> (Connect to your GP services online)
- <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/self-help/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>

Subcutaneous Injection

Subcutaneous injections use a needle to deliver a drug just under the skin.

These are mainly used in rheumatology to deliver long term treatments for arthritis and related conditions. This may either be in the form of Methotrexate or a Biologic agent e.g. Adalimumab. Further information on these medications is available at <https://www.versusarthritis.org/>

Patients with osteoporosis may also be receiving Denosumab either via our day unit or via their GP. Further information on this medication is available at <https://www.theros.org.uk/>

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If you are receiving a biological therapy or methotrexate subcutaneously for treatment of your rheumatological condition please contact:

For flares of disease

Rheumatology Patient Advice Line: 01432 364020 (11am-12pm Mon-Fri)

rheumatology.patient@nhs.net

For advice/help with your biologic prescription

01432 355444 (ext. 5794) wvt.rheumbiopatient@nhs.net

For advice/help with your subcutaneous Methotrexate prescription

01432 35544 (ext. 5785)

If you have osteoporosis and are receiving Denosumab please contact the osteoporosis secretary on:

01432 355444 (ext. 5461)

Urgent Health Advice

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health, when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit www.nhs.uk. The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Life Threatening Emergencies

For something life threatening – severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999.

Contact us

Any email enquiries can be sent to our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS); pals@wvt.nhs.uk

If you feel that the hospital haven't been able to resolve your concerns after you have spoken to them about your waiting time, you can speak to our dedicated PALS team.
