



Rheumatology – Infusion

Introduction

Rheumatology is a branch of medicine that deals with the investigation, diagnosis and management of people living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. These diseases are usually caused by problems in the immune system, inflammation, infections, or the gradual deterioration of joints, muscles and bones. Rheumatic and musculoskeletal conditions affect soft tissues, joints, bones, cartilage, tendons, ligaments and muscles – also known as connective tissues.

Infusion of therapeutic substance: Certain types of arthritis and other autoimmune diseases can be managed with a type of treatment called infusion therapy.

Our Service

The nurses and doctors work as part of a multidisciplinary team. The Rheumatology department offers a comprehensive range of treatments. We also work closely with GP colleagues to monitor treatments in stable patients via agreed shared-care protocols. The Infusion Suite delivers a range of IV therapy infusions that may avoid the need for Hospital admission.

Guidance for Patients

Whilst you are waiting for your infusion the Versus Arthritis website has drug information booklets available online of the infusions you are going to receive:

www.versusarthritis.org

- [Isle of Wight Rheumatoid and Inflammatory Arthritis Support – Home \(www.iwrias.org.uk\)](http://www.iwrias.org.uk)
- www.metoject.co.uk
- National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS) enquiries@nras.org.uk
- Royal osteoporosis society nurses@theros.org.uk

Whilst you are waiting for your procedure, it is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle. To support local Isle of Wight residents to stop smoking or lose weight, **Healthy Lifestyles Isle of Wight** has been commissioned to provide free stop smoking and weight management support to the Isle of Wight community.

Call: 01983 642369

Email: healthylifestyles.isleofwight@nhs.net

Website: www.healthylifestylesiow.co.uk

Healthy Lifestyles Isle of Wight are here to help you and offer different levels of support to maintain a healthy weight and to stop smoking including telephone support, virtual and app-based support options.

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Stop Smoking Service the stop smoking service provides a range of options to help you quit including support from an advisor, stop smoking medications, e-cigarettes and a digital offer for those who wish to quit by themselves.

If you are not ready to quit just yet but would like more information on how to protect your family, **Smoke free Homes**, advises on how to make your home and car smoke free.

Weight Management Service The service supports adults aged 18 years or over who want to lose weight and have been identified as obese.

Find out your BMI

You can get help to lead a healthier lifestyle if you're an adult (18 years or over) living on the Isle of Wight and your body mass index (BMI) is above average. Use this tool to [find out your BMI](#). If it's too high, sign up for a programme that will help you lose weight BMI of 30+

If your BMI is 30 or higher, you qualify for free support from [Healthy Lifestyles Isle of Wight](#).

BMI of 28+

You can get free support from Healthy Lifestyles Isle of Wight, if your BMI is 28 or over if at least one of the following applies:

- you have Type 1 and 2 Diabetes or Metabolic Syndrome
- you have problems with your heart, circulation, hypertension or high blood pressure
- you have been diagnosed with anxiety/depression
- you need to lose weight before receiving another medical treatment or surgery
- you have a serious long-term health condition that is adversely affected by your weight such as muscular skeletal disorders (back pain, mobility issues) and asthma
- you're from a black or ethnic minority background.

BMI of 25+

If you have a Body Mass Index of 25 or higher Better Health Let's Do This – Lose Weight website provides online support to help you lose weight and includes access to the NHS 12-week weight loss plan.

The NHS 12-week fitness plan will support your weight loss plan as well as improve your health. This is aimed at beginners and will help get you into the habit of regular exercise over the course of the programme. It is structured but flexible enough to allow you to fit the exercise sessions around your other weekly commitments.

Healthy eating and being active

Information and advice on healthy eating and becoming more active is available from:

- [One You Eat Better](#) (website) - includes Easy Meals app for healthy meals and the Change4Life Food Scanner to help reduce levels of sugar in your diet.
- [Better Health - Get Active](#) (website) - includes tips on getting active for all, including the downloadable Active 10 app, as well as tailored advice for those living with a long-term condition.

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- [Sugar Smart Isle of Wight](#) is a campaign to raise awareness of hidden sugars, recommended levels and healthy alternatives by encouraging individuals, groups, businesses, schools and organisation to join the campaign and make a pledge. To find out how you can join in, become sugar smart and make good choices about what you, your family, colleagues eat, please visit our [Sugar Smart web pages](#).

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

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.

GP surgeries are still open

GP practice staff are also helping patients to manage their conditions at home while they wait for hospital appointments.

GP surgeries are still open and are working differently to how they did before the COVID-19 pandemic and GP practices continue to make best use of telephone, online and video consultations. Face-to-face appointments are still being given to those who need it.

When you phone or use an online form to contact your GP surgery to make an appointment, you will be asked some questions which are designed to help staff guide you to the most appropriate clinical person to help you with your condition. This could be a nurse, clinical pharmacist, physician's associate, GP or paramedic.

A list of GP practices with relevant contact details are available on the following website:

www.onewighthhealth.co.uk.

Contact Us

- Liane Worth, Rheumatology Nurse Specialist, Caroline Sunderland, Osteoporosis Nurse Specialist
Sister Carolyn Goddard, Anti-TNF Nurse Specialist Contact us on the Rheumatology helpline: 01983 552218
- Mrs Mary Millward, Secretary. Telephone: 01983 822099 Ext: 4909

A dedicated e-mail address for My Planned Care enquiries: iownt.myplannedcare@nhs.net