

**Patient
Information**

Rituximab Infusions

Introduction

You have been given this leaflet as you are currently being treated with a biological medicine called rituximab.

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has made the decision to switch from one brand of rituximab called Truxima[®] to a different brand called Rixathon[®].

During your visit today you will be able to discuss this switch with a specialist pharmacist. You will also have the opportunity to speak to your specialist nurse/consultant as you would normally.

The rest of this leaflet explains the background to the switch and aims to answer some of the questions you may have.

What brands of rituximab are available?

The first brand of rituximab was called MabThera[®] and was manufactured by a single pharmaceutical company. After a number of years, other companies are allowed to produce their own copies of the medicine. A new version of a biological medicine is called a 'biosimilar'.

A biosimilar medicine is not identical to the original medicine but it is highly similar. You have already been receiving a biosimilar version of rituximab called Truxima[®]; we would now like to change to an alternative biosimilar called Rixathon[®].

Is Rixathon[®] as safe and as effective as Truxima[®]?

Rixathon[®] has been thoroughly tested and analysed. The authorities that regulate medicines in the UK have said that when compared to Truxima[®] or MabThera[®], Rixathon[®] does not show any meaningful differences in quality, safety and effectiveness.

Please be assured that we would not be making this change unless we were completely confident that it was just as safe and effective as Truxima[®].

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Department

Pharmacy

Review due

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Why is the switch being made?

Rixathon[®] is available to the NHS at a much lower price than Truxima[®]. In order to make the most of this opportunity we will be switching patients like you, who have previously received Truxima[®], to Rixathon[®].

We do not expect any patients to experience problems as a result of switching to Rixathon[®]. If you do experience any alteration of your disease symptoms or side-effects please contact your specialist nurse/consultant.

We follow up the safety of all biologic medicines very carefully. If you would like any more information regarding Rixathon[®] please ask your nurse or pharmacist for a patient information booklet.

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