Undergoing rituximab infusions

Introduction
This leaflet will give you information about Rituximab infusions.

Starting rituximab infusion
You will have an appointment with the Rheumatology nurse for an assessment before starting rituximab infusions. This will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have.

If your consultant is happy for you to start rituximab infusions, you will have one treatment, followed by a second treatment 2 weeks later. Treatment will be given on the Medical Day Unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. You will be advised of the dates by post or over the phone.

Blood and urine tests
You will need blood tests 1 week before both treatments. You will be given the necessary blood forms at your clinic appointment or by post.

You will also be asked to give a urine sample on the day of your treatments. You will be given specimen bottles at your clinic appointment or on the day of treatment.

You will need to continue having monthly blood tests and will be reviewed regularly in clinic by a member of the medical team and a rheumatology nurse.

Pain relief and other medication
If you are taking medication for high blood pressure, you must stop taking it 12 hours before the infusion. Please bring all of your medications with you when you come to the hospital.

You will be given paracetamol before your rituximab infusion is started. This will help to stop an immediate allergic reaction. It is therefore important to make sure that any pain relief medication is taken at least 4 hours before your appointment time.
Follow up appointment

After your second treatment an appointment will be arranged for your progress to be assessed in 4 months. The appointment details will be posted to you.

If you have not received a follow up appointment letter 1 month before it is due please contact the Rheumatology Advice Line or Central Booking Office.

Contact information

Rheumatology Advice Line
Cheltenham General Hospital
Tel: 0300 422 3667 (answerphone)

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital
Tel: 0300 422 6412 (answerphone)

Medical Day Unit
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital
Tel: 0300 422 6641
Monday to Saturday, 8:00am to 4:00pm

Central Booking Office
Tel: 0300 422 5987
Monday to Thursday, 9:00am to 4:30pm
Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm

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