Further information contact:
Claire Maclennan on 0191 4041000 ext 2274.

Infliximab and Biosimilars

We are committed to raising the standard of written information for patients, their carers, people who use the NHS and the general public.

This information can be made available in another format or language on request. For further copies of this leaflet please contact on telephone numbers above.

Switching from Remicade to Remsima: Information for Patients

Providing a range of NHS services in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland.
You are currently being treated with a drug called Remicade (infliximab) for your Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Crohn’s disease or Ulcerative Colitis). Remicade is a “biologic medicine” made by a single drug company and is the brand name of the original infliximab.

New “biosimilar” versions of infliximab are available in the UK. The biosimilar version of infliximab used at South Tyneside Hospital is called Remsima.

**What is a biosimilar?**

A biosimilar is a copy of a biological medicine. It is almost identical to the original drug but is made by a different company. It is just as safe and effective as the original medicine. There may be small differences between Remsima and Remicade but the differences will not alter how well the drug works or how safe it is.

**Does Remsima work as well as Remicade?**

Remsima has been thoroughly tested and analysed. Research has shown that it works as well and is as safe as Remicade. It is being used successfully in other hospitals in the UK and Europe and is approved by European Medicines Agency and the UK Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Authority.

**Why are we switching to Remsima?**

Because the patent for Remicade has expired other versions of infliximab, such as Remsima, are available at a much lower cost. This enables us to deliver more cost-effective care across South Tyneside.

**What does this mean for me?**

We would like to switch you to Remsima. You will continue to receive the infusions from your specialist nurse at the same time intervals as you have been and you will be monitored in the same way.

We would not be offering this alternative treatment unless we were confident that it was just as safe and effective as your current treatment.

**What if I have any further questions?**

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Claire Maclennan on 0191 4041000 ext 2274.