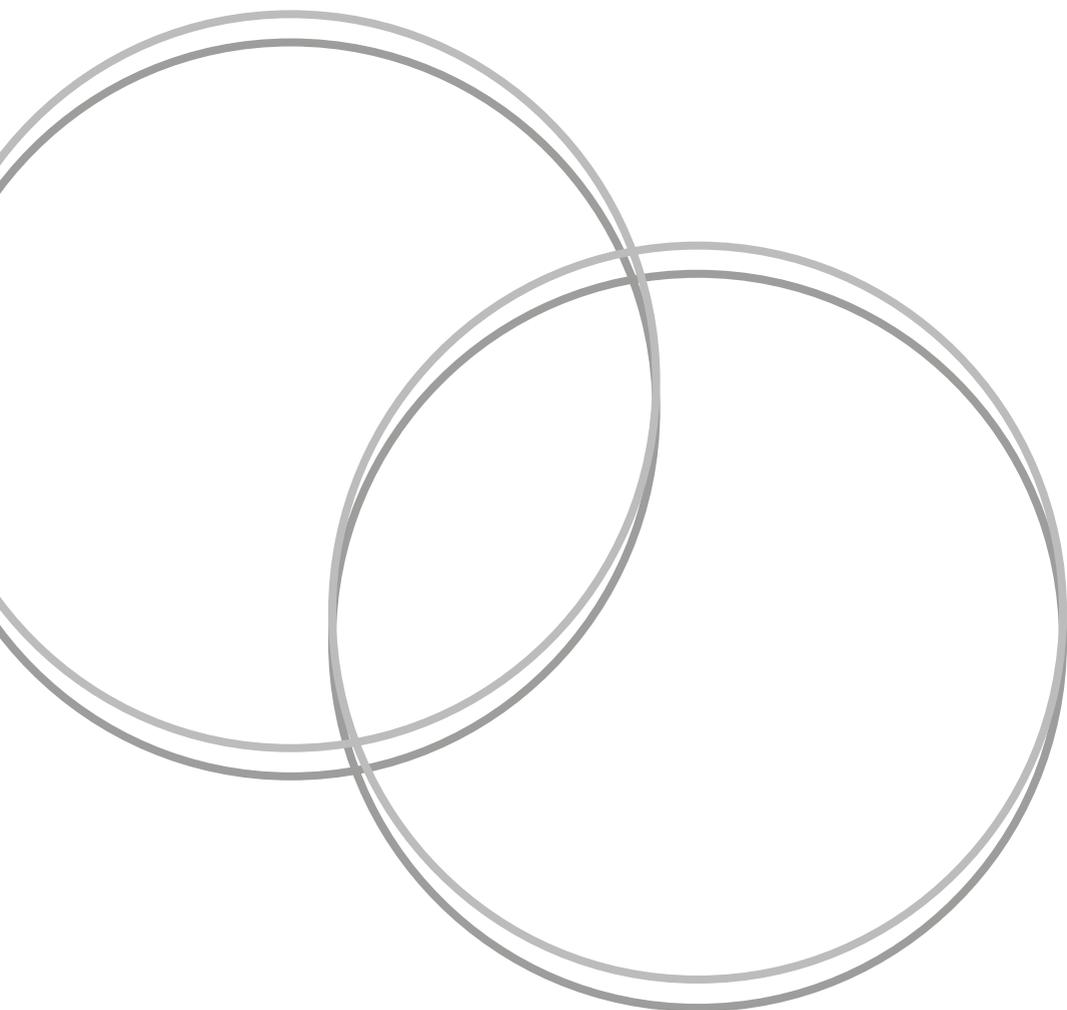




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Sulfasalazine

Drug information for Patients



Sulfasalazine is a daily medication; the dose is usually gradually increased over a period of four weeks when starting this medication.

Sulfasalazine come as **500mg** tablets.

Sulfasalazine

- Tablets should be taken with a large glass of water and swallowed whole if enteric coated formulation is prescribed.

Week 1	Take _____ tablets (_____ mg) once in the morning.
Week 2	Take _____ tablets (_____ mg) once in the morning and _____ tablets (_____ mg) once in the evening.
Week 3	Take _____ tablets (_____ mg) once in the morning and _____ tablets (_____ mg) once in the evening.
Week 4	Take _____ tablets (_____ mg) once in the morning and _____ tablets (_____ mg) once in the evening and continue at this dose until advised to change.

General Information

Sulfasalazine can take up to **3 months** to have an effect. We may prescribe you some steroids to take if you are flaring while waiting for the medication to work.

Please discuss with your doctor or pharmacist before starting new medications, including herbal medicines and dietary supplements. Some medicines can interact with sulfasalazine. Sulfasalazine may stain your tears and urine yellow/orange - this is nothing to worry about. Common side effects include nausea, heart burn, headache, diarrhoea and tiredness.

If you notice any concerning side effects including a very sore throat, fever or abnormal bruising please contact our specialist team advice line on -

Email: ouh-tr.rheumatologynurses@nhs.net.

Monitoring

The Rheumatology team will provide you with blood forms to take to your GP for blood tests to be taken at 2 weeks, 4 weeks and 6 weeks after starting sulfasalazine. The Rheumatology team will monitor the results of these blood tests.

We will provide a prescription for the first 8 weeks of treatment and monitor your blood results. We will then hand over to your GP for ongoing prescriptions and monitoring if you are managing well. In order to ensure that the medication is not causing any problems, and that you are happy to continue taking it, we will send you a link to an electronic questionnaire in approximately 5 weeks. Please complete this within a week of receiving the link so that we can start the process of transferring the prescribing and monitoring of this treatment to your GP without delays or gaps in treatment.

Please contact us if you are unable to complete the questionnaire electronically or have any questions. Your GP can also contact us at any time with any queries or concerns.

If your GP surgery is outside of Oxfordshire, we will not be able to see the blood results unless your GP surgery sends them to our department.

Pregnancy

Sulfasalazine can be taken during pregnancy. If you plan to conceive, please contact your Rheumatologist for family planning advice. Sulfasalazine can be continued during breastfeeding if it is required to control your arthritis.

Rheumatology Educational Materials

Link to video playlist for Rheumatology Education material:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXc9Lskf-Han5D4Aj99n2vWJRlqZmO-t

QR code for video playlist:



Feedback for Early Inflammatory Arthritis videos

Link to feedback questionnaire:

forms.office.com/r/68Nh8PNmhG

QR code for feedback questionnaire:



Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Developed By: Max Wood, Laura Coates, Krystie Driver and the Rheumatology Team, Version 1.1 September 2022
Rheumatology Department, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre,
Windmill Road, Oxford OX3 7LD

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