

Home Delivery of Ustekinumab (Stelara[®])

Medicines information for patients



Home Delivery of Ustekinumab (Stelara®)

As part of our commitment to improve services to patients, the Pharmacy Department and Gastroenterology are offering you the option of having your **ustekinumab** injections delivered to your home or other nominated address. If you take up this option, your prescription will be dispensed by a private pharmaceutical company called Sciensus. The medication will then be delivered to your nominated address free of charge. If you are a new patient you will have the option to be visited at home by a nurse provided by Sciensus to train you in using injections which are given under the skin.

If you do not wish to use the home delivery service or would prefer training on how to use the injections by a specialist IBD nurse or pharmacist at the hospital, please let us know.

The first dose of ustekinumab is given in hospital as an intravenous infusion (liquid) into a vein in your arm. Subsequent doses are given an injection under the skin (subcutaneous) and these can be supplied to you via the home delivery service.

Why home delivery?

The aim of this partnership is to provide a more streamlined dispensing service for patients whilst allowing our pharmacists more time to spend working with the rest of your clinical team. Sciensus has provided dispensing services to the NHS for many years and we believe this service will enable us to increase the quality of care we can give to patients. We hope that you will find it more convenient too.

Delivery of medicines by an external provider will also save money as hospitals have to pay higher costs for the medicines than community or private companies such as Sciensus. The savings made will enable us to improve services to the Gastroenterology Unit.

Due to ustekinumab being a specialist medicine it can only be prescribed by the hospital and not by your GP.

Who is Sciensus?

Sciensus is a pharmaceutical company specializing in the delivery of patients' medicines. The pharmacy is registered with and inspected by the Royal Pharmaceutical Council. Since the company was founded, Sciensus has safely delivered thousands of parcels of medicines to patients throughout the UK.

Registration and consent forms

To enable us to provide you with the best service, we will need to provide Sciensus with some contact details for you. We will complete a registration and consent form before the first prescription is written. Dispensing records will be held on a computerised patient management system and comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. Sciensus staff are governed by the same rules about confidentiality as NHS staff. Sciensus fully understand and are sensitive to all issues surrounding the confidentiality of information about you and your medicines.

How does the service work?

Once the decision has been made to start treatment with ustekinumab you will be contacted to attend the Gastroenterology daycase unit for the first dose which is given as an intravenous injection (into a vein).

Subsequent doses are administered as subcutaneous injections (under the skin) and a Gastroenterology pharmacist will discuss on-going supplies with you and consent you to the home delivery service if you are in agreement.

You will be trained on how to use the subcutaneous injection device with a dummy syringe by the IBD nurse or pharmacist. If you would like the first subcutaneous dose to be administered by a nurse at home then we will request this on the home delivery registration forms. We may also request a nurse-led visit if we feel you would benefit from further training.

A Gastroenterology pharmacist will then complete and send off the registration forms and a prescription for the first two subcutaneous doses to the delivery company for dispensing. The first of these doses should be administered 8 weeks after the intravenous dose received in hospital. The second subcutaneous dose should be administered 8 weeks after the first unless you are told otherwise by your Gastroenterologist. The standard maintenance dose is 90mg (one pre-filled syringe) administered subcutaneously every 8 - 12 weeks as advised by your doctor.

Typical dosing regimen:

Dose 1 weight based	Week 0	Date given:	Intravenously	In hospital
Dose 2 90mg	Week 8	Date due:	Subcutaneously	At home
Dose 3 90mg	Week 16	Date due:	Subcutaneously	At home
Dose 4 and onwards 90mg	every 8 - 12 weeks	Date due:	Subcutaneously	At home

Within four weeks after your intravenous dose in hospital you should be contacted by Sciensus to agree a convenient delivery date for the medication to be delivered to your nominated address. If you are to receive additional training on injection administration you should receive a call from a nurse from Sciensus to arrange a suitable date for them to visit and provide support in using the injections yourself.

You will be reviewed in clinic 6 to 8 weeks after the first subcutaneous dose to assess response to the medication. Depending on your response to the treatment a decision will be made to continue or stop the medication at this stage. The dosing schedule may also be adjusted if you have not achieved an adequate response. **It is important that you do not adjust the dosing schedule yourself without discussing it with the Gastroenterology team. Please contact us if you have any questions about when to take your dose.**

If you are to continue, your gastroenterologist will then ask one of the gastroenterology pharmacists to complete and send off a prescription for home delivery of further supplies of medication to be delivered to you on a regular basis.

Your medication will be packed securely in plain packaging and delivered via an unmarked refrigerated van to your nominated delivery address.

You will be provided with specific bins (often known as sharps bins) to dispose of your ustekinumab syringes safely at every delivery. Full bins will be taken away in exchange at the time of delivery.

How do we make sure you receive your medicines?

Sciensus will contact you to arrange the first delivery date of the medication. Following this they will have a record of when the next delivery is due and will forward a request for a new prescription to the gastroenterology pharmacist at the hospital. The pharmacist will liaise with the medical and nursing teams to confirm treatment is continuing and verify the dose and then complete and send off the prescription so it can be dispensed in time for the next dose. You will generally receive one pre-filled syringe at a time depending on your personal dosing schedule and timing of clinic appointments.

Healthcare at Home will contact you to arrange a convenient delivery slot. If you have not heard from them and are expecting a delivery then you should contact Customer Services in the first instance and then the Gastroenterology Pharmacy Team if a delivery is not confirmed.

Treatment duration is usually for one year initially and then reviewed. It is very important that you attend clinic appointments and have regular blood tests while taking ustekinumab otherwise we will consider stopping treatment.

Please note that you should nominate an address for delivery where there will be someone available to sign for the receipt of your ustekinumab. This could be your home, the home of a relative or friend or your place of work. You must let us know if your delivery address or contact details change.

If for any reason you need to cancel and rearrange your scheduled delivery e.g. holiday, you must contact Sciensus Customer Services as soon as possible.

What happens if there is no one available to sign for the item?

If you are not in to receive the delivery, the driver will contact Sciensus and ask them to try and contact you by telephone on the numbers you have provided at registration e.g. home, mobile, and work numbers. If they are still unable to contact you, the medication will be returned to their depot. Sciensus will continue to try and contact you to arrange another delivery time. No medication will be left on the doorstep.

Storage

On receipt you must put your ustekinumab in the fridge (2°C to 8°C) as soon as possible.

Travel

A single ustekinumab syringe may be stored at temperatures up to a maximum of 30°C for a period of up to 30 days. Once a syringe has been stored at room temperature (up to 30°C), it should not be returned to the refrigerator. Discard the syringe if not used within 30 days at room temperature storage or by the original expiry date, whichever is earlier.

Ustekinumab should be kept in its original package, to protect it from light. We highly recommend that even for short trips you transport ustekinumab in a cool bag containing ice packs, and ensure there is a fridge at your destination to store them.

Sciensus can provide customs forms if required for overseas trips.

If you are planning a trip which is longer than 3 months in duration outside the UK you **must discuss this with your gastroenterologist and pharmacist at the hospital as soon as possible.**

If I have a question about my medicines, who should I contact?

If you have any questions about how to take your medicines or about interactions or side effects, you should contact:

An IBD Nurse specialist

via the IBD advice line

Tel: **01865 228 772**

Or

A gastroenterology pharmacist

Tel: **01865 221 523**

Email: ibd.homecare@nhs.net

Or

A doctor on Gastroenterology Ward

Tel: **01865 221 185.**

If you have any questions relating to the delivery of your medication or organising nurse training at home please contact:

Sciensus customer services

Tel: **0333 103 9499**

Email: hah.enquiries@hah.co.uk

Or

A gastroenterology pharmacist

Tel: **01865 221 523**

Email: ibd.homecare@nhs.net

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.

Author: Version 1 Sarah Cripps, Gastroenterology Pharmacist, January 2020
Guidance received from Divisional Patient Information Coordinator

Review: June 2024
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
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