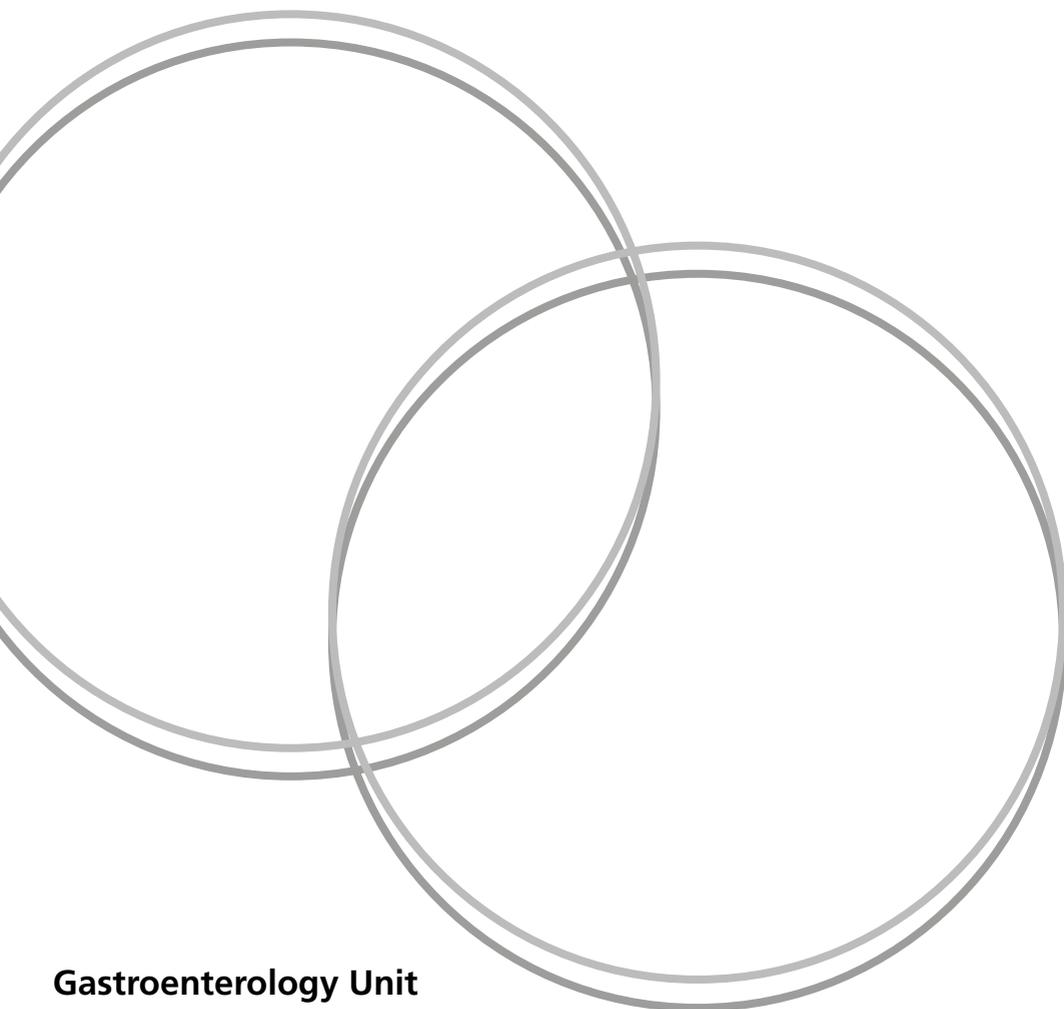


Home Delivery of Vedolizumab (Entyvio) subcutaneous injection

Information for patients



Home Delivery of Vedolizumab (Entyvio) subcutaneous injection

As part of our commitment to improve services to patients, the Pharmacy Department and Gastroenterology are offering you the option of having your vedolizumab subcutaneous 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 HealthNet. The medication will then be delivered to your nominated address free of charge.

If you are starting vedolizumab, the first 2-3 doses will be via an intravenous infusion (directly into a vein) administered in hospital. On-going treatment will either be via an intravenous infusion every 8 weeks or by subcutaneous injection (given under the skin) which you will self-administer at home every two weeks. We will discuss which route of administration would be the best option with you.

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

If you do not wish to use the home delivery service please let us know.

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. 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 HealthNet. The savings made will enable us to improve services to the Gastroenterology Unit.

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

Who is HealthNet?

HealthNet is a pharmaceutical company specialising in the delivery of patients' medicines. The pharmacy is registered with and inspected by the Royal Pharmaceutical Council. Since the company was founded, HealthNet 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 HealthNet 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 an electronic patient management system and comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. HealthNet staff are governed by the same rules about confidentiality as NHS staff. HealthNet 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 vedolizumab subcutaneous injections and you have consented to home delivery (and nurse-led injection training if required and/or appropriate), a Gastroenterology pharmacist will complete and send off the registration forms and a prescription to HealthNet for dispensing.

Within two to three weeks you should be contacted by HealthNet to agree a convenient delivery date for the medication to be delivered to your nominated address. If we have requested nurse-led training you will also receive a call from a nurse from HealthNet to arrange a suitable date for them to visit to start your treatment and train you in using the injections yourself.

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 **sharps bins** at every delivery. This will ensure that you can dispose of your vedolizumab injections safely. Full bins will be taken away in exchange at the time of delivery.

HealthNet maintains records of when your 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 8-12 weeks' worth of medication at a time.

If you do not hear from the delivery company and you require a delivery within the next 7 days you should contact Customer Services in the first instance and then the Gastroenterology Pharmacy Team if you are told they do not have a valid prescription.

Treatment duration is usually for one year initially and then reviewed. It is very important that you attend clinic appointments (either face to face or by phone as appropriate) and have regular blood checks whilst taking vedolizumab 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 vedolizumab. 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 HealthNet 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 HealthNet 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. HealthNet 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 vedolizumab injections in the fridge (2°C to 8°C) as soon as possible.

Travel

A single vedolizumab pen/syringe may be stored at temperatures up to a maximum of 25°C or 77°F for a period of up to 7 days. Vedolizumab must be protected from light and discarded if not used within the recommended period. We recommend however that even for short trips you transport vedolizumab in a cool bag containing ice packs and ensure there is a fridge at your destination to store them.

For overseas trips you should check your airline's hand luggage policy and obtain a signed letter or travel certificate confirming you take vedolizumab.

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 on
01865 228 772

Or

A gastroenterology pharmacist on
01865 221 523 or email **ibd.homecare@nhs.net**

Or

A doctor on 5F Gastroenterology Ward on
01865 221 185.

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

HealthNet Pharmacy Customer Care Team:
01977 601379 or **0845 223 4494**

08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays), and
08:00 to 17:00 Saturday.

A voicemail service is available outside of these hours, where you can leave a message, and this will be picked up on the next working day.

Alternatively

Email: **enquiries@healthnethomecare.co.uk**

Or

A gastroenterology pharmacist on
01865 221 523 or 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.

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June 2020

Guidance received from Divisional Patient Information Coordinator

September 2021

Review: September 2024

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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