1. WHY AM I HAVING THESE INJECTIONS?
GOLD INJECTIONS are given to control arthritis. It is **NOT** a pain killer, but is to prevent joint damage and also after several weeks, make you feel better.

2. HOW IS IT GIVEN?
- **GOLD** is given by injection into the muscle - usually the buttock.
- Two test doses (10mg, then 20mg) are given a week apart.
- **Thereafter 50mg is given every week or fortnight**, depending on clinical decisions. You may not notice any improvement for several weeks or months. Do not be discouraged and please continue the injections as prescribed.
- Please continue anti-inflamatory tablets and pain killers
- If this treatment suits you, you will probably be on it for many months or years. However, **once improved**, the frequency of injections may be gradually reduced. If the arthritis gets worse, the frequency of the injections can be increased again.

3. ARE THERE ANY SIDE-EFFECTS?
As with all medicines, some patients may experience side-effects with GOLD INJECTIONS. The most common of these include:
- **Skin rash and mouth ulcers. Contact your GP or Rheumatology Nurse urgently if these persist.**
- Some patients get increased joint pains the day after the **GOLD INJECTIONS**, but this usually disappears as treatment continues.
- **Bone marrow** problems can occur causing a fall in the number of platelets (needed for clotting) or white cells (needed to fight infection). This side effect is very rare, but **can be serious** if not discovered early. If you notice any excessive bruising or bleeding, are suffering from recurrent infections or have become unwell without apparent cause tell the nurse who administers your injection. Your treatment may be delayed until you have had a blood test. If in doubt contact the rheumatology nurse or your GP.
- Problems may only be detected by blood tests, so it **is important you have these regularly.**
- **Occasionally GOLD INJECTIONS cause the kidneys to leak protein into the urine.** This does not usually damage to the kidneys, but requires the drug to be stopped. You will be **taught by the clinic nurse or GP how to test your urine** for protein.

4. DO I NEED ANY REGULAR TESTS TO ENSURE ITS SAFE TO CONTINUE THE INJECTIONS?
- **A blood count (FBC) MUST be checked monthly** while you are on this therapy. It is extremely dangerous to miss the blood tests, no matter how long you have been on the injections.
- **Urine checks should be done before each injection**, as persistent colour change may suggest increased protein loss.

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5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
(a) Always bring the ‘GOLD INJECTION RECORD CARD’ with you when attending the GP or Rheumatology clinic and ensure the results of your blood and urine tests are entered on it.
(b) If you are hoping to become pregnant, tell your doctor, as it may be necessary to withdraw GOLD INJECTIONS before this.

PATIENT INFORMATION ON GOLD INJECTIONS (MYOCRISIN)

Consultants:  
Dr Binder  (Lister)  
Dr Ellis  (Lister)  
Dr Axon  (QEII)

Rheumatology Nurse Practitioners:  
Fidelma Gordon  
Sharon Lerpiniere

Rheumatology Nurse:  
Julie Smith  
Alex Greengrass

Useful Numbers:

Rheumatology Helpline: 01438 285624

Dr Binder’s secretary: 01438 284128  
Dr Ellis’ secretary: 01438 284473  
Dr Axon’s secretary: 01438 285399

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