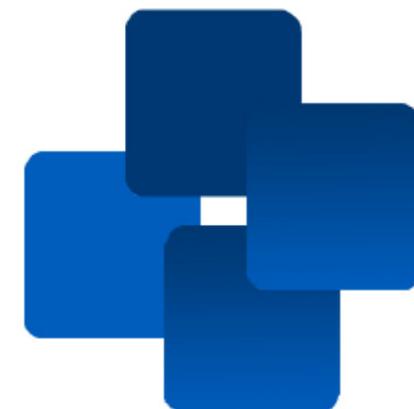


| Specialist   | Designation   | Contact details   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Lister Hospital</b><br>Joanne Kwa<br>Esther Puxley<br>Fiona Clarke<br><b>Mount Vernon Cancer Centre</b><br>Oncology<br>Pharmacists  | Haematology / Oncology<br>Pharmacist  | 01438 284712<br>or<br>01438 285394<br>or e-mail:<br>pmupharmacist.enh-tr@nhs.net<br><br>0203 826 2238 |
| <b>Lister Hospital</b><br>Haematology<br>secretaries to:<br>Dr J Hanslip<br>Dr X Papanikolau<br><b>Mount Vernon Cancer Centre</b><br>Haematology<br>secretaries to:<br>Dr J Lambert<br>Dr S D'Sa | Consultant Haematologist  | 01438 284149<br>or<br>01438 286472<br><br>0203 826 2433   |
| <b>Lister Hospital</b><br>Alysson Hill<br><br>Alison Paterson<br><b>MVCC</b><br>Helen Johnson  | Haematology Clinical<br>Nurse Specialist<br><br>Haematology Nurse<br><br>Haematology Clinical<br>Nurse Specialist | 01438 284294<br>or<br>0788 765 0801<br><br>0203 826 2101  |

## Patient Information

# Biosimilar Rituximab (Truxima®)

### Pharmacy Department



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information in a different  
format or another language.

## Introduction

You have been given this leaflet to help answer some questions you may have regarding the introduction of biosimilar rituximab (Truxima®) in place of rituximab (MabThera®) that is currently used to treat your condition.

## What is biosimilar rituximab (Truxima®)?

You are currently undergoing treatment with rituximab (MabThera®). The patent for MabThera® has now run out and biosimilar versions of rituximab are now approved for patients.

Biosimilars are similar but not identical copies of the original drug molecule made by a different manufacturer. Small structural differences are allowed between MabThera® and biosimilars but these will not change the quality, safety or effectiveness of the drug. The biosimilar version of MabThera® used at East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust is called Truxima®.

## Is Truxima® safe and effective?

Biosimilars are regulated in a similar way to the original licensed product. Truxima® is approved by the European Medicines Agency and the UK Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Authority. The evidence so far suggests Truxima® is safe, well tolerated and as effective as MabThera®.

## Why are we switching over?

Treatment for your condition remains unchanged as MabThera® and Truxima® contain the same active medicine, rituximab. By switching patients currently using MabThera® to Truxima®, a significant cost saving will be generated for the NHS. Some of the savings may mean that we can treat other patients with new and innovative medicines.

## What does this mean for you?

Biosimilar rituximab (Truxima®) will be prescribed for you in place of MabThera®. You will continue to receive the infusion at the same intervals as you are currently getting them.

The initial Truxima® infusion will be given over a longer period of time to allow nursing staff to assess how well you are tolerating the treatment. Subsequent infusion(s) may be administered over a shorter period of time if the initial infusion is well tolerated.

## Additional information

A patient information booklet for Truxima® is attached to this information leaflet.

Please contact the haematology team or one of the haematology/ oncology pharmacists if you have any further questions or concerns. Contact details are shown on the next page.