



## Manchester Royal Infirmary

# Welcome to the Department of Immunology

Information For Patients



This leaflet will give you information about the Adult Immunology Service and advice about how to seek medical help if you become unwell between your appointments with us. As we are unable to give advice out of normal working hours, (Monday-Friday – 09.00 am – 5.00 pm), it is important that you read this leaflet carefully. The information provided in this leaflet will help you to make the right choice about who you should approach for help. If you want to discuss anything in this leaflet, please ask your immunology doctor or nurse before you leave clinic.

Some patients attending our clinics travel long distances, so it is important to be able to get help and advice nearer to home. During your clinic visit you will have discussed a management plan for your condition with your immunology doctor or nurse. However there may be times when you need some advice about your treatment or are unsure how to get help if you are unwell.

## **Our service**

Immunology involves the diagnosis and management of diseases affecting the immune system.

The immunology services provided by Central Manchester Foundation Trust (CMFT) include:

- Diagnosis and assessment of patients with suspected immunodeficiency.
- Home training for immunoglobulin replacement therapy.
- Diagnosis and management of patients with hereditary and acquired angioedema including home therapy training (C1 inhibitor and Icatibant therapy).
- Diagnosis and assessment of patients with allergic disease.

We also work closely with our colleagues in the immunology laboratory who help us to provide a full range of diagnostic tests.

The Adult Immunology Service at Central Manchester Foundation Trust CMFT is outpatient based, which means that we do not have any inpatient beds. If you are admitted to Manchester Royal Infirmary through the Accident and Emergency Department you will have a Consultant from another speciality looking after you. Once we know you have been admitted we will work with your consultant to make sure that they know about your immune problem and its treatment. Sometimes we may visit you on your ward; however this is not always necessary.

If you are admitted to a hospital nearer to your home, it is important that you or a relative/carer inform the Immunology Department so that we can talk to your medical team if needed.

After each appointment you will receive a copy of your Immunology clinic letter. You may find it useful to take these to other hospital or GP appointments. Please let us know which other healthcare professionals are involved in your care so that we can keep them informed about your diagnosis and treatment.

## **Home therapy**

Should you have any questions or concerns about your homecare delivery service please contact the Homecare Team at Central Manchester University Hospitals Foundation Trust on 0161 701 4347, between 09.00 am and 5.00 pm.

If you have been trained for home therapy you will know what to do if a problem arises. The Immunology nursing team are available Monday-Friday between 09.00 am and 5.00 pm if you are unsure. You will have been given the Immunology Nurses contact details during your appointment. Please keep their details with all your infusion paperwork.

## **Treating chest or respiratory tract infections**

If you attend our immunology clinic, but do not have home infusions, it is important that you know what to do should you develop an infection.

During your clinic appointment you will have been given advice about treating infections, which will vary depending on your diagnosis and the type of infection.

Depending on the type of infection you have, we would encourage you to send a phlegm sample (or other sample) to the laboratory for testing (via your GP surgery) to make sure you are on the right antibiotic.

If you have antibody deficiency we normally recommend a longer course of antibiotics, either 10 or 14 days. To make sure that you gain maximum benefit from your antibiotics it is important that you complete the course. This also reduces the risk of developing antibiotic resistant infections.

## **Advice for patients not taking preventative antibiotics**

If you don't have an emergency course of antibiotics your GP should be your first contact if you think you have an infection. They have a record of all your medicines and allergies and will know which antibiotic is most suitable for you.

## **Advice for patients who take preventative antibiotics**

- If you are taking a preventative antibiotic and you have an alternative 'SOS' emergency antibiotic prescribed, start taking this once you have sent a sample to the laboratory via your GP surgery.

- Stop your preventative antibiotic until you have finished your emergency course of antibiotics. Remember to re-start your preventative antibiotic once you have completed the course of emergency antibiotics.
- If you are on a preventative antibiotic and do not have an emergency course of antibiotics prescribed, then you will need to make an appointment to see your GP for advice about a different antibiotic.

At your clinic appointment you will have been given an infection diary. Please record any infections you have in this, so we can assess how well you are doing at your next clinic appointment.

## **Treating other infections**

Some patients with antibody deficiency can become unwell very quickly when they have an infection. If you have more severe symptoms such as fever, feeling sweaty or faint, you may need to see your GP urgently or attend your nearest Accident and Emergency Department. If you require admission to hospital for the treatment of an infection your doctor can contact us for advice between 09.00 am and 5.00 pm.

Depending on the severity of your symptoms your GP should be your first contact if you think you have an infection. Your GP surgery will operate an out of hours service so you should always be able to speak to a doctor and get appropriate advice and treatment.

The Immunology service do not provide an out of hours service, however your GP can contact our doctors or nurses between 09.00 and 5.00 pm ( Monday – Friday) for advice, particularly if you are requiring repeat courses of antibiotics to treat the same infection. If you leave a message for the nurses they will return your call within one working day.

If you are worried about your symptoms out of normal surgery hours and cannot speak to a doctor or nurse please attend your nearest Accident and Emergency Department.

## **Contact numbers**

Immunology Office Manager: (0161) 276 6468

Clinic appointments: (0161) 276 6686

Immunology Nurses: Office: (0161) 276 6186

Mobile: 07920 593486

## **Patient support groups**

P.I.D. UK: [www.piduk.org](http://www.piduk.org)

UK PIPS: [www.ukpips.org.uk](http://www.ukpips.org.uk)

HAE UK: [www.haeuk.org](http://www.haeuk.org)



## No Smoking Policy

Please protect our patients, visitors and staff by adhering to our no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted in any of our hospital buildings or grounds, except in the dedicated smoking shelters in the grounds of our Central Manchester site.

For advice and support on how to give up smoking, go to <http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>.

## Translation and Interpretation Service

It is our policy that family, relatives or friends cannot interpret for patients. Should you require an interpreter ask a member of staff to arrange it for you.

تنص سیاستنا علی عدم السماح لافراد عائلة المرضى او اقاربهم او اصدقائهم بالترجمة لهم. اذا احتجت الی مترجم فیرجی ان تطلب ذلك من احد العاملين لیرتب لك ذلك.

ہماری یہ پالیسی ہے کہ خاندان ، رشتہ دار اور دوست مریضوں کے لئے ترجمہ نہیں کرسکتے۔ اگر آپ کو مترجم کی ضرورت ہے تو عملے کے کسی رکن سے کہیں کہ وہ آپ کے لئے اس کا بندوبست کردے۔

ইহা আমাদের নীতি যে, একজন রোগীর জন্য তার পরিবারের সদস্য, আত্মীয় বা কোন বন্ধু অনুবাদক হতে পারবেন না। আপনার একজন অনুবাদকের প্রয়োজন হলে তা একজন কর্মচারীকে জানান অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য।

Nasze zasady nie pozwalają na korzystanie z pomocy członków rodzin pacjentów, ich przyjaciół lub ich krewnych jako tłumaczy. Jeśli potrzebują Państwo tłumacza, prosimy o kontakt z członkiem personelu, który zorganizuje go dla Państwa.

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我们的方针是，家属，亲戚和朋友不能为病人做口译。如果您需要口译员，请叫员工给您安排。



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