

Learning About Remicade in Medical Day Care

Welcome to Medical Day Care! This information discusses what to expect during your treatment with Remicade in Medical Day Care (MDC).

We encourage you to be involved in your care, please share with us:

- information about your health
- what information or help you need

For us to work together and provide the care you need, we welcome your comments and questions at any time. We want you to have enough information and support to feel comfortable.

Your appointment will last from 3 to 5 hours. This includes any medications you may need before receiving the Remicade. Before you can go home, we want to make sure you did well with the treatment and feel well afterwards.

Coming to Medical Day Care

It is important that you come to the Medical Day Care on time for your Remicade appointment. Coming even a few minutes late may result in a long delay in getting your Remicade from Pharmacy.

Remicade needs to be specially prepared by our pharmacist

Our pharmacist is asked to prepare Remicade at 9 am and 12 pm for patients who have registered/arrived in MDC. It takes the pharmacist about 1 hour to prepare Remicade. Pharmacy does its best to prepare and deliver the Remicade on time but there may be a delay that the pharmacist cannot control.

When you arrive in MDC, the nurse will:

- ask how you are feeling. Please tell the nurse if you are on antibiotics or have a current infection such as an open wound that is red or sore.
- weigh you. The amount or dose of Remicade you need is based on your weight.
- check your temperature, blood pressure, pulse and breathing.
- start an intravenous (IV) in your arm or access/set up your central line.
- give you any medications that you need before the Remicade is given.

What you may feel while on Remicade

You may have a headache, nausea, dizziness and/or flushing during your treatment. Please tell the nurse if you have any of these feelings during treatment so your nurse can help you get more comfortable. During your Remicade infusion your nurse will check your blood pressure, heart rate, temperature and oxygen/breathing and note any changes.

Receiving Remicade

Remicade is given or infused through the IV using an IV pump. Using an IV pump rather than gravity flow helps to maintain a steady and more accurate rate of infusion and total infusion time. Moving from gravity flow to an infusion pump keeps us current with what is used in other clinics in the hospital.

How fast Remicade is given is based on how you feel or tolerate the infusion. Your first 2 Remicade treatments will be infused over 2 hours and slowed down if needed. Later infusions may be infused over 1 hour if earlier doses were well tolerated. At each visit your nurse will ask you how you are tolerating the infusions and if you would like to have the infusion over 1 hour.

After your Remicade Infusion

After your Remicade infusion your nurse will check you to make sure you feel okay and are ready to go home. When you are at home after your infusion you should let your doctor know if you have any of these reactions:

- signs of infection such as fever, cough, flu like symptoms
- muscle aches, tiredness
- warm, red or painful skin
- bruising or bleeding
- shortness of breath