



Dear Infusion Patients,

At the Columbus Arthritis Center, we pride ourselves in the quality of care and safety standards we provide to our patients.

Here is some important information for you to review regarding your infusion(s):

- **ANTIHISTAMINES** – If you are receiving any of these medications; infliximab, Benlysta, Krystexxa or rituximab, please take an antihistamine one-hour prior to receiving the biologic medication. Taking an antihistamine will decrease your chance of any reaction to the biologic medication. We have extra Zyrtec if you forget to take it prior to your appointment; however, we will delay your infusion by 10 minutes after giving you the Zyrtec to allow time for it to take effect. Recommended antihistamines are: Benadryl, Zyrtec, Claritin, Allegra, Xyzal or any of their generic equivalents. This does NOT apply to Actemra, Orencia, or Simponi Aria patients.
- **INFECTIONS** – Prior to receiving your infusion, please inform the Infusion Center staff if you have **ANY** active infection, including all bacterial, yeast, and fungal infections. If you are on antibiotics, or have been on antibiotics recently, **PLEASE** let us know. Antibiotics **DO NOT** interact with any biologic medication you are taking, however if you are given an antibiotic by your doctor, it is most likely to treat an active infection. Your infusion may need to be rescheduled for 7 days or longer **AFTER** the antibiotic is completed. The biologic medication you are taking may increase your chances of a super infection.
- **SURGERIES** – If you have had any recent or have any upcoming surgeries or procedures, please inform the Infusion Center staff or your rheumatologist. Your infusion schedule may need adjusted to allow proper healing time for your surgery or procedure. Just like active infections can worsen because your immune system is suppressed, delayed healing can also occur at your surgery site and there is also an increased risk of infection. This includes root canals and biopsies.

Every step we take is to protect you, our patients, and to make sure you receive the best care possible. One way to do this is for you to keep us updated on your recent medical history.

Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns – we are happy to assist you!

Thank you,

Your Infusion Team!



Infusion Instructions

Prior to an infusion:

- Avoid caffeine 24 hours prior to your scheduled infusion. You may resume your normal caffeine intake after the infusion is initiated.
- Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water in the 24 hours prior to your scheduled infusion.
- Take an antihistamine 1 to 2 hours prior to your scheduled infusion if you are going to be receiving INFLIXIMAB, RITUXIMAB, BENLYSTA, OR KRYSTEXXA. Recommended antihistamines are Zyrtec, Allegra, Claritin, Xyzal, and Benadryl or their generic equivalent. Taking the antihistamine reduces your chance of reacting to the infusion medication. You may also want to take 2 extra strength Tylenol unless contraindicated. You are not required to take an antihistamine if you are receiving Reclast, Orencia, Actemra, or Simponi Aria.
- Eat a meal. Please do not arrive with an empty stomach. Columbus Arthritis Center provides complimentary drinks and snacks, but feel free to bring your own. We also have complimentary Wi-Fi.
- **To minimize overcrowding in the infusion suite, we ask that patient guests do not enter the infusion suite. They may wait in the lobby. If you require additional assistance or have specific needs, please inform our nurses.**

If ANY of the following apply:

- Cold
- Fever
- Wounds that are not healed
- Recent or upcoming surgeries
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Treatment with antibiotics

It is **VERY** important that you consult your physician prior to your infusion, as it may be medically necessary to reschedule your infusion.

**To contact the Infusion Department:
(614) 486-5200 ext. 2626**



Cell Phone Policy

Due to the nature of the procedures, we are providing here in the CAC Infusion Department, we ask that you be mindful of others and not be on your cell phone for extended periods of time. This can be distracting to the nursing staff and surrounding patients.

- If you must use your cell phone, please use them quickly and quietly. For example, if you have to call a ride, etc.
- Please no intercom/speaker use or video calls.
- Please use headphones when listening to videos, music or movies.

Thank you for your cooperation.

NO-SHOW INFUSION POLICY

Every time one of our patients misses an appointment without providing adequate notice, another patient is prevented from receiving care. For that reason, infusion appointments that are not cancelled with adequate advanced notice will result in a \$100 No-Show/Late Cancellation FEE.

As you prepare for your upcoming infusions at Columbus Arthritis Center, we ask you to make note of all of your infusion appointments in your personal calendar. We understand that everyone's time is valuable and we try and schedule future infusion appointments out several months in advance to help you plan your infusions around the rest of your life and "reserve" your time in our infusion suite! Columbus Arthritis Center is committed to providing quality care to all of our patients; therefore, we ask that you provide advanced notice if you are unable to keep your infusion appointment.

Please call our office no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to your upcoming infusion appointment to notify us of any changes or cancellations.

To cancel a Monday infusion appointment, please call our office by 12:00 p.m. on the Friday before your appointment.

No-Show/Late Cancellation fees are not covered by insurance and are the responsibility of the patient. If you have Multiple "No-Shows" in a 12-month period your physician will reach out to you to discuss discontinuation of future infusions.

We look forward to providing you superb care in our infusion suite. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping scheduled appointments and providing us with adequate advanced notice if you must cancel.

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