

# Monoclonal antibodies for severe asthma

## Information for patients, parents and guardians

Monoclonal antibodies are an injectable, biologic treatment for severe asthma, which are given in addition to your child's usual inhalers and tablets. The two monoclonal antibodies we currently offer as a treatment for asthma are called Omalizumab and Mepolizumab.

We have given you this factsheet because we believe monoclonal antibodies may help manage your child's asthma symptoms. Before we start the trial of injections, we need to complete a few steps to make sure that the treatment is suitable for your child. This means it may take several weeks before we start the treatment.

### Respiratory nurse review

- We will assess your child's inhaler technique.
- We will give you more information about asthma.

### Medication review

- We will carry out a medication review with your child's GP and local hospital to make sure they are being prescribed the correct medication.

### Home visit

- Home visits are a normal part of assessing difficult to treat asthma and your child may have had one before. We will need to organise a home visit if your child has not had one in the last 12 months.

### Two week admission

- To make sure we have done everything we can to optimise your child's asthma treatment, we may arrange for your child to stay in hospital for two weeks.

### Arrange to start a trial of injections

- If your child's symptoms have not improved with all the stages above, we will arrange a date to start the new medication. Depending on the medication, your child may need injections every two or four weeks. We will give your child the first three injections in hospital on the John Atwell Day ward and observe your child for two to three hours after the injection. After this, your child should continue to have their injections administered by the ward nurses on the John Atwell Day ward or at your local hospital.
  - Omalizumab requires a 16 week trial to assess whether it is reducing symptoms.
  - Mepolizumab requires a 52 week trial to assess whether it is reducing symptoms.

After this time, we will make a decision as to whether to continue the treatment.

Please note that this process can take up to 12 weeks to complete, but it is necessary to make sure we have done all we can to control your child's symptoms before committing them to two or four weekly hospital visits for treatment.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask a member of the paediatric respiratory team.

**Useful links**

Asthma UK - [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audiotape, please telephone **023 8120 4688** for help.

[www.uhs.nhs.uk/childrenshospital](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/childrenshospital)

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