



Current information for patients Multiple Sclerosis patient from MS Nurses ADHB (24/3/2020)

We understand that these are very trying times for you all. Please give us time to respond to your enquiries as we are having an overwhelming number of calls and emails.

Our service, GPs and MS community advisors are still working on the phone and email. We will continue to triage new symptoms and provide advice, however these will be prioritised according to urgency.

If you are taking any MS medication please do not stop without discussing first with us.

Current information for patients on disease modifying treatment for Multiple Sclerosis from MS Nurses ADHB (24/3/2020)

With the current situation with regard to Covid-19 we would like to communicate important advice from our team.

Patients that are on any disease modifying treatment (except copaxone) are considered to be immune-compromised **to some degree**.

For that reason we ask that you follow the Ministry of Health Guidelines for level 3 alert – everyone is to self-isolate

As you are aware the situation is changing daily. We will endeavour to keep you updated as best we can.

Current information for patients on Natalizumab (Tysabri) for Multiple Sclerosis from MS Nurses ADHB (24/3/2020)

It is important that you continue with your infusions.

It is also important that you do not have any contact with other people who are not in your social isolation group.

As a way of minimising contact with others we are moving all patients that are on 4 weekly Tysabri infusions to 6 weekly infusions.

This will be staggered, so that you will have one infusion at 5 weeks, and then your next infusion will be at an interval of 6 weeks.

Your Tysabri will be delivered by the pharmacy to the neurology day stay, there is no need to collect it from pharmacy when you arrive at the hospital.

If you are already on 6 weekly infusions these will continue.

If you have any questions about your Tysabri infusions specifically please do not contact the MS nurses, please contact Jane Grigor on jgrigor@adhb.govt.nz or 021 925 623.

Current information for patients on Ocrelizumab for Multiple Sclerosis from MS Nurses ADHB (23/3/2020)

If you are due to have your ocrevus infusion soon we need to do a blood test to check your B cell markers. These are the immune cells that ocrevus depletes.

If the markers show that you are still depleted then we may need to delay your infusion.

If the markers show that your cells have reconstituted ('grown back') then we will either give your infusion or switch to a medication that is safer in the current coronavirus pandemic.

We will send the blood test form out to you one month before your infusion is due, please email us back to let us know you have had the test so that we can check the results.

As you are aware the situation is changing daily. We will endeavour to keep you updated as best we can.

For prescriptions please continue to call your GP.

If you need to contact us in the first instance please email us on :

msnurses@adhb.govt.nz

Please leave phone messages for non-urgent queries- 307 4949 ext 25885

Thanks

MS Team

ADHB