

Infliximab/ REMICADE® Patient Startup sheet

Assistance with Coverage

1. You need to apply for **Alberta Health Non-Group Coverage**. Information is available from Alberta Health Services. You can pick up an application at your local pharmacy or online at: <https://cfr.forms.gov.ab.ca/form/ahc0201.pdf>. Alberta Health Non-Group is a government-assisted program that helps people who do not have benefits obtain medication and works with existing insurance. You will be required to pay a monthly premium. (low income Albertans can apply for subsidized premiums, an application is available online at: <https://cfr.forms.gov.ab.ca/Form/ahc0208g.pdf>) They will not however cover the drug without special authorization. There is a 3+ month waiting period, so send in your application as per the instructions ASAP.
2. **Our IBD nurses will:**
 - a) Enroll you in a free program through **BioAdvance®**
 - b) Provide you with the requisitions for a chest X-ray, TB skin test, and blood work
3. **BioAdvance® will:**
 - a) Complete the orders for your infusion and send the prescriptions ordered by your physician to the infusion clinic and the pharmacy of your choice
 - b) Arrange your 1st infusion which is scheduled once testing and approval is complete
 - c) Complete renewals of prescriptions and special authorizations as needed. You must contact BioAdvance® if there is a problem with your prescription or if there is a problem or change in insurance.

Private Coverage

Find out if you have private benefits that will cover the medication. Call your individual benefit provider and give them this information:

Drug Identification #'s (DIN): 02244016

****BE SURE TO ASK IF THERE IS A CAP ON THE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE YOU CAN GET/YEAR****

You may need to also apply for Alberta Health Non-Group for additional coverage.

BioAdvance® is a free Patient Support program that works independently of the University of Alberta, and assists in the coordination of medication insurance and arranging for the booking of Remicade infusions. They will help you ensure that you have adequate insurance to cover the costs. You will need to complete a "Release of Information" form so that they can access your medical charts. You can get this form from our IBD nurses.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

You can call **BioAdvance®** at 1-866-872-5770. You can reach the IBD nurse by calling your physician's office and selecting the option for the IBD Nurse (780-492-8691, ext. 9).

While awaiting coverage

Your IBD physician/nurse will give you requisitions to have a chest X-ray and some blood work and instructions about getting a TB skin test. It is very important for you to have a TB skin test, chest x-ray and bloodwork done prior to starting Remicade. We would also like a list of vaccinations that you have received, including childhood immunizations which can be obtained either through your Family Physician or Public Health Centres by phone at 780-413-7985.

Ready to Start

Your prescription will be ordered from the pharmacy of your choice. You need to pick up your medication prior to your first infusion. It will need to be kept refrigerated. BioAdvance® will set up your loading doses at 0 – baseline, 2 weeks after start and 6 weeks after start. After your loading doses you will likely be put on a maintenance dose of every 8 weeks.

What to Bring

Bring something to do for a couple of hours, books, magazines, music, movie DVD. You may be in a room with other people, so if you choose to listen to music or watch a movie please bring headphones. Because everyone has a possibility of being sensitive to a new medication, your first 3 infusions will take approximately 4 hours. Subsequent visits may be shorter if you have no reaction.

IBD Health Practitioner Checklist		Family Physician Checklist	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chest X-ray	<input type="checkbox"/>	Routine breast exam
<input type="checkbox"/>	TB Skin Test	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pap smear for HPV & HPV vaccine
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hepatitis & HIV Serology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin exam for atypical moles (dermatologist consult if relevant)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Vaccinations to be up-to-date
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual dental exam