

# Truxima (Rituximab) Alert Card

For patients with non-oncology diseases

## Why have I been given this card?

This medicine may make you more likely to get infections. This card tells you:

- What you need to know before having rituximab
- What the signs of an infection are
- What to do if you think you might be getting an infection.

It also includes your name and doctor's name and phone number on the back.

## What should I do with this card?

- Keep this card with you all the time - such as in your wallet or purse.
- Show this card to any doctor, nurse or dentist you see - not just the specialist who prescribes your rituximab.

Keep this card with you for 2 years after your last dose of rituximab. This is because side effects can develop several months after you have had treatment.

## When should I not have rituximab?

Do not have rituximab if you have an active infection or a serious problem with your immune system.

Tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking or have previously taken medicines which may affect your immune system; this includes chemo-therapy.

### **What are the signs of getting an infection?**

Look out for the following possible signs of infection:

- Fever or cough all the time
- Weight loss
- Pain without injuring yourself
- Feeling generally unwell or listless.

**If you get any of these, tell a doctor or nurse straight away. You should also tell them about your rituximab treatment.**

## What else do I need to know?

Rarely rituximab can cause a serious brain infection, called “Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy” or PML. This can be fatal.

- Signs of PML include:
  - Confusion, memory loss or problems thinking
  - Loss of balance or a change in the way you walk or talk
  - Decreased strength or weakness on one side of your body
  - Blurred vision or loss of vision.

If you get any of these, tell a doctor or nurse straight away. You should also tell them about your rituximab treatment.

## Where can I get more information?

See the rituximab package leaflet for more information.

## Treatment start date and contact details

Date of most recent infusion: .....

Date of first infusion: .....

Patient's Name: .....

Doctor's Name: .....

Doctor's contact details: .....

Make sure you have a list of all your medicines when you see a health care professional. Please talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions about the information in this card.