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PATIENT INFORMATION

DAWN Blood Monitoring and Prescription Service

DAWN Prescription Line: 01793 604204



You have been prescribed a drug for your arthritis, known as a disease modifying drug or DMARD. Your consultant will have explained to you why you need it, and its possible side effects. It will be prescribed from the DAWN Prescription Service at the hospital.

Whilst taking your medication, it is essential for your safety, to have regular blood tests. The only exception is if you have been prescribed Hydroxychloroquine/Plaquenil on its own, in which case, a blood test just before your consultant appointment will be enough. Your consultant will tell you at your clinic appointment how often you need to have a blood test.

At the Great Western Hospital, we have a specialized computer system for monitoring blood results, (DAWN). Once you have started a DMARD medication your details will be entered onto the DAWN system and your blood results will then be monitored along with your prescription requests.

Where can I get a blood test?

You may attend your GP surgery or the hospital for your blood tests. Your blood forms will be sent out along with your prescriptions.

The Rheumatology Department will also inform you of any abnormal blood results which may need us to make changes to your medication.

If you miss a blood test, the computer will alert us. We do not send out reminder letters. You should therefore be aware that if you are behind with your blood testing when you ask for a repeat prescription, we will not be able to deal with your request until you have had a blood test.

Repeat Prescriptions

The Rheumatology Department will prescribe your Disease Modifying Drugs through the DAWN system. These medications include:

- Methotrexate
- Folic acid (vitamin supplement)
- Azathioprine (Imuran)
- Penicillamine
- Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil)
- Salazopyrin
- Leflunomide (Arava)
- Gold
- Cyclosporin
- Mycophenolate Mofetil (Cellcept)

We do not prescribe anti-inflammatories or other medications such as Prednisolone/Diclofenac, these must be obtained via your GP, as should any other prescribed drugs which you may take.

You may request a repeat prescription by using one of the following options:

- Call the DAWN Prescription Line on **01793 604204**. You will be asked to leave a message including your name, hospital number and the medication/dose you require.
- Email at: dawn.meds@gwh.nhs.uk
- By post addressing your letter to:

Rheumatology Practitioners
DAWN Clinic
Osprey Unit
The Great Western Hospital
Marlborough Road
Swindon
SN3 6BB

Your prescription will be posted to you, for up to a 3 month supply of medication, with sufficient blood forms for the three month period. Please allow 5 working days for your prescription to arrive.

If you would prefer us to send your prescription direct to your pharmacy, please let us know when you request your prescription, stating clearly which pharmacy we should send it to.