

## Can I drive home afterwards?

The steroid infusion will not make you drowsy, but it is probably best to have someone to drive you home.

## Contact Us



Rheumatology Department  
Osprey Unit, 3rd floor  
The Great Western Hospital  
01793 604323

If you would like this information in another format, i.e. large print or another language, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) department on

01793 604031

## Patient Information

# Intravenous Steroid Infusions

Rheumatology Department  
Great Western Hospital

## Why are they prescribed?

Intravenous Steroid infusions are used to reduce the amount of pain and swelling in your joints, for example to treat a flare of your arthritis, or while waiting for your anti-rheumatic drugs to take effect.

## Pre-infusion checks

When you arrive you will be asked about any current illness or infection. You will be asked to provide a urine sample. Occasionally a blood sugar test may be performed, by pricking your finger.

**Please notify staff if you are pregnant or if you have recently been in contact with chickenpox.**

## How long does it take to work?

You will probably notice the benefit within 24 hours, but sometimes it can take a few days.

## How are they given?

As the name implies, the steroid (Methyprednisilone, diluted in Dextrose or Normal Saline) is given into a vein through a drip in your hand or arm. It is usually given over one hour.

You may need up to 3 steroid infusions, depending on your response, usually a week apart.

Infusions are given in Coate Water Day Unit, which is on the third floor in the Osprey Unit.

**Telephone: 01793 604763**

## Side Effects

You may become flushed at the time of the infusion, and some people notice a metallic taste, but these effects are temporary and not harmful.

Occasionally people have difficulty sleeping for 24-48 hours post infusion, but again this is temporary.

You should report any symptoms of euphoria, depression or mood swings as in this case further infusions might not be advisable.