

Rheumatology Infusion Room

LOCATION AND HOURS

The Rheumatology Infusion Room is located within the **Rheumatology Clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital: in Zone D, on Level 2**. You will check in at the same reception area as when you see your rheumatologist.

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) 8 am to 5 pm

Phone Number: 519-646-6000 ext. 66333

WHAT TO BRING

- Please bring your OHIP card to each visit and present to the receptionist upon arrival
- Ensure to bring an up-to-date list of your current medications (both prescribed and medications taken over the counter), vitamins and supplements to each appointment.
- You may want to bring something to keep you entertained during your appointment such as a book, magazine, tablet, knitting etc. Free Wi-Fi (St. Joseph's Guest) is also available

WHAT SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS SHOULD I FOLLOW?

Please notify your infusion nurse or your rheumatologist prior to your appointment about any of the following:

- You have signs of infection (i.e., fever, nasal discharge, new or worsening cough, pain during urination, cold sores)
- You are currently taking antibiotics
- You have an open wound
- You have an elective surgery booked in the next **six months**
- You have had surgery within the last **two months**
- You are pregnant or breastfeeding or there is a chance you could be pregnant
- You have had a vaccine in the **last 30 days** or plan to have a vaccine in the **next six months**
- You have a new diagnosis of cancer

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WHAT TO EXPECT

- Once you are registered, you will be called into the Rheumatology Infusion Room and assigned a chair by the nurses
- The nurse will ask a few questions to ensure you are well enough to receive your infusion
- Please note that some medications are ordered from our on-site pharmacy after your arrival to the clinic and as such, it may take up to 45 minutes for your medication to arrive in the infusion room
- Your nurse will start your IV, draw any ordered bloodwork and take your blood pressure which will be monitored throughout your infusion
- Once your medication arrives, it will be verified with you and the doctor's order
- Depending on your medication your visit may take between two to six hours with some exceptions.
- You may eat or drink before, during, and after the infusion.
- Most patients can take regularly scheduled medications the day of the infusion but there are exceptions to this. Check with your rheumatologist or infusion nurse prior to your infusion
- Visitors/caregivers are asked to wait in the Rheumatology Clinic waiting room but are free to bring you snacks into the infusion room, or to pop-in and see how you are doing. If you require support, arrangements can be made for your visitor/caregiver to stay with you in the infusion room
- If you require any additional support during your infusion related to physical, emotional or cultural needs, please let the infusion room nurses or reception staff know so we can plan your visit accordingly

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