

Biologic Medications

What it is

Biologics are medicines made from living cells. They block certain parts of the immune system that cause swelling. They are given as a shot under the skin or as an infusion into a vein.

Infusions are currently given at a partner hospital; in-office infusions at GSMC are planned. Call 732-202-3000 for details.

Shot under the skin
at home



Or an infusion
into a vein

Infusions: currently at a partner hospital

Who it may help

- Rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis
- Ankylosing spondylitis and axial spondyloarthritis
- Lupus and some forms of vasculitis

Self-care tips

- Take it exactly as prescribed. Do not stop or change the dose on your own.
- Keep all lab tests and follow-up visits.
- Tell every provider, dentist and pharmacist what you take.
- Ask before getting vaccines or starting new medicines or supplements.

What to expect

Before you start: Your rheumatologist reviews your health and may order blood tests.

Taking it: You give yourself a shot at home on a set schedule, or you get an infusion every few weeks to months. You are tested for TB and hepatitis first.

Follow-up: You have regular visits and lab tests to check how it works and watch for side effects.

When to call us

- Fever, chills, cough or other signs of infection
- A new rash, mouth sores or easy bruising
- Side effects that worry you
- You are pregnant or plan to be

Call 911 for trouble breathing, or swelling of the face, lips or throat.

Call 732-202-3000

One number for all offices. Questions about this handout? We are glad to help.

Our 7 offices: Whiting · Toms River (Hooper Ave) · Brick · Barnegat · Manahawkin · Freehold · West Long Branch

gsmedicalcenter.org/services/rheumatology/treatments/biologics/



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This handout is general information and is not a substitute for medical advice.