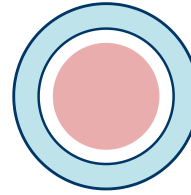


# Vasculitis

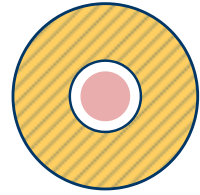
## What it is

Vasculitis means swelling of the blood vessels. It can affect vessels in many parts of the body. There are many types, and care depends on which type you have.

Healthy blood vessel



Vasculitis



Swollen wall narrows the space for blood

## Common symptoms

- Fever, fatigue, weight loss, aches
- Rash or small purple spots on the skin
- Numbness or weakness from nerve involvement
- New headache, scalp tenderness, jaw pain when chewing or vision changes (seek urgent care: possible giant cell arteritis)
- Cough, sinus problems or blood in the urine in some types

## Self-care tips

- Ask us about bone, blood pressure and blood sugar care while on steroids.
- Take your medicines exactly as prescribed. Do not stop them on your own.
- Keep all lab and follow-up visits.
- Stay active with gentle exercise, and rest during flares.

## What to expect at GSMC

**First visit:** A rheumatologist reviews your symptoms, history and medicines, and examines your joints and skin.

**Tests:** Blood tests and imaging, as needed, help confirm the diagnosis.

**Follow-up:** Regular visits and lab checks help us adjust treatment over time.

## When to call us

- New headache, jaw pain when chewing, or vision changes: get care the same day
- A flare that does not settle with your usual plan
- Fever or signs of infection while on your medicines
- New symptoms, such as a rash, chest pain or leg swelling

**Call 911 for chest pain, trouble breathing, or signs of a stroke.**

## 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/conditions/vasculitis/](https://gsmedicalcenter.org/services/rheumatology/conditions/vasculitis/)



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