

# Natalizumab

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact: Medical Elective Service (MES)  
The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE.  
Telephone 01904 721062 or email [yhs-tr.MES.PatientEnquiries@nhs.net](mailto:yhs-tr.MES.PatientEnquiries@nhs.net)

---

## Information about Natalizumab

Natalizumab is a drug given by Intravenous Infusion. It is used to treat active relapsing remitting Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

It works by stopping certain cells of the immune system reaching the brain and spinal cord and causing damage.

## Information about your infusion

Your Natalizumab infusions will be given on either a four or six weekly basis, as specified by your consultant or specialist nurse.

The day before your appointment you will need to contact the Medical Elective Service (MES) by phone to complete a health screening checklist to ensure you are well enough to be given your treatment. You will need to do this before every infusion. If you do not contact us, your appointment will have to be cancelled and rescheduled to the next available appointment.

If you are unable to use a telephone to complete this checklist you can have a carer or relative make this phone call for you if you are happy for them to do so. Otherwise please contact MES on the email address above as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made.

On admission to MES, a member of staff will record your observations (including blood pressure, pulse and temperature) and insert a cannula (a soft plastic tube) into a vein in your hand or arm.

Your Natalizumab infusion will then be started by one of the nurses on MES.

Your Natalizumab infusion will be given through the cannula over one hour, during which time you must remain in MES. On completion of the infusion, you will be given a 50ml saline (salt solution) flush to ensure you receive the full dose of medication.

After your infusion is finished, you will need to remain on MES to be monitored for one hour to ensure you feel ok. A member of staff will then repeat your observations and remove your cannula.

You will be given the date and time of your next infusion before discharge.

MES will provide hot drinks, bottled water and biscuits. We will provide sandwiches if you are with us over lunch time. You are welcome to bring any food or drink (non-alcoholic) with you to your appointment.

## **Possible side effects**

Possible side effects that Natalizumab may cause include dizziness, headache, tiredness, nausea and diarrhoea. This list is not exhaustive, and you should contact your doctor or specialist nurse for further information if required.

Very rarely you may experience an allergic reaction to the medication, with symptoms such as hives (itchy, raised welts), itching, swelling of the tongue, chest pain or shortness of breath.

If you experience any of these symptoms or feel unwell in any way during your infusion you should inform a member of the nursing staff immediately.

If you have any problems following your Natalizumab infusion please contact your consultant or specialist nurse.

## Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: Medical Elective Service, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE  
or email [yhs-tr.MES.PatientEnquiries@nhs.net](mailto:yhs-tr.MES.PatientEnquiries@nhs.net)

## Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email [yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net](mailto:yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net)

An answer phone is available out of hours.

## Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

## Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio.

如果你要求本資 不同的 或 式提供 , 電或發電

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

Bu bilgileri değişik bir lisanda ya da formatta istiyorsanız lütfen telefon ediniz ya da e-posta gönderiniz

Telephone: 01904 725566

Owner	Sister, Medical Elective Service
Date first issued	April 2023
Review Date	April 2026
Version	1
Approved by	CG6 Clinical Governance Team
Document Reference	PI1643

© 2023 York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. All Rights reserved.

[www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk)