



## Information for Recipients of Immune Globulin

### What is Immune Globulin?

IVIG is a common short way of saying intravenous immune globulin. IVIG is a blood product that contains antibodies taken from human blood donors. These antibodies can help fight viral or bacterial infections and can interact with your own immune system and blood cells. In some cases Immune Globulin can be administered by injection in the arm or belly fat. This is called subcutaneous Immune Globulin or SCIG.

### What is IVIG/SCIG given for?

There are many reasons a physician may prescribe this type of blood product. Most commonly it is used for immune deficiency, or blood disorders in newborns, children and adults. In some cases it may be prescribed for infectious conditions or neurological conditions such as Guillain-Barre syndrome, Myasthenia Gravis. Other reasons might be for skin conditions. You should talk to your doctor about your individual need for immune globulin.

### How is IVIG given?

Once an intravenous is inserted in your arm, the blood product is infused over several hours. During the infusion, it is necessary for the nurse to monitor your condition and response to the IVIG. This is by observation, discussion and vital sign recordings.

### What are side effects of IVIG?

Side effects from IVIG usually occur during or up to 24 hours following infusion and tend to be mild and short lived. Common side effects include: headache, dizziness, cough, pain at infusion site, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, itching, fever, chills, aches, rash, sore throat, fatigues, abdominal discomfort and sweating.

Patients who are well hydrated before infusion seem to have fewer side effects.

Minor side effects can be reduced by slowing the rate of infusion and giving medications such as acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol<sup>®</sup>) or an antihistamine (e.g. Benadryl<sup>®</sup>).

### What are the risks of IVIG?

IVIG is considered to be a safe blood product with a low risk of transmitting disease. Blood donors are carefully tested before they donate, and during the manufacturing IVIG is treated to destroy the viruses that cause AIDS and Hepatitis.

### Cautions

Patients who have IgA deficiency, who have had a reaction to a blood product before, or who are at high risk for blood clots or kidney damage may not be able to receive IVIG OR they may need special monitoring or a slower infusion rate to ensure they are as safe as possible. You should inform your doctor if any of these conditional apply to you.

**Lab tests while using IVIG.**

It is important for your safety that baseline and follow up lab work is taken. The scheduling of this bloodwork and/or urine testing will depend on your dose of IVIG and the reason you need it. You should talk to your doctor about these tests.

**What to do if a reaction occurs.**

If you begin to feel mildly unwell after your infusion and are not sure what to do you should call **Health Links- Info Santé at (204) 788-8200 or Toll Free 1-888-315-9257.**

If you feel you need to be seen by a health care professional you can go to a walk in Clinic, Quick Care Clinic, or Urgent Care Center.

If your symptoms are serious and you feel very unwell call 911- DO NOT DRIVE YOURSELF.

It is very important to inform your doctor of any side effects or treatment you have received as a result of IVIG administration.

**For your records**

Blood product name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dose administered: \_\_\_\_\_

Administration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescribing Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Next appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information:

