

## PREPARING FOR AN INFUSION

### **YOU MUST NOTIFY US Prior to Your Infusion Appointment (Up to Six Weeks):**

- If you have had any LIVE vaccines in the last six (6) weeks.
- Do not wait until the day of your infusion to address new, changing or persistent symptoms/problems. If you have any changes or concerns related to your neurological diagnosis, when the symptoms start you must call or email the nurse at 512-215-4106 or [nurse@austinneuromuscle.com](mailto:nurse@austinneuromuscle.com)
- You are or have recently been sick - any kind of infection, fever, stomach or respiratory illness, uncontrolled blood pressure or blood sugar, etc.
- You have had any surgery - including outpatient procedures, dental work, etc.

### **Several Days Prior to (and on the day of) Your Appointment**

- HYDRATE! HYDRATE! HYDRATE! Increase the amount of water you drink. Decrease the amount of caffeine. This helps prepare your veins for successful IV placement.
- **Have your pre-infusion labs drawn at least five (5) days prior to your infusion.**
- Continue current medications unless otherwise instructed. It is important to take your blood pressure and blood sugar medication as scheduled.

### **The Day of Your Appointment**

- Take all of your regular medications before arrival and bring any daytime meds with you. Also bring any other prescription or over-the-counter meds you may need for pain, anxiety, nausea, migraine, muscle spasms/cramps, etc.
- Due to infection risks with IV starts, make sure skin and clothing have been recently cleaned.
- Appointment times are scheduled carefully to allow multiple patients to be seen safely each day.
  - Please be respectful of everyone's time - yours, other patients and ours.
  - Plan ahead and allow enough or extra time for any delays such as long commutes, traffic, weather, parking, etc.
  - If you are late, you will likely be rescheduled.

### **Before You Check In**

- Use the restroom.
- Finish phone calls/texts.

- Remove heavy or binding outer clothing in preparation for weighing and starting your IVig.

### When You are Called Back to the Infusion Suite

- You will be weighed and then seated in the infusion suite.
- Be prepared to answer our pre-infusion questions, sign consent forms, have your vital signs taken and your IV started *all within 5-10 minutes of your appointment time.*

### Once Your Infusion has Started

- We will help you get settled.
- We will check on you often. The nurse will obtain vital signs regularly and will be readily available if you need assistance.
- We provide beverages and snacks, however, we recommend you come prepared with food and drinks.
- Please place your phone on vibrate and limit calls to less than five (5) minutes. Be aware of the volume of your voice. Inappropriate language is not allowed.
- For security and privacy, photos or videos are not allowed.
- Please raise your chair to an upright position for hourly blood pressure checks and any IV adjustments.

### When Your Infusion is Finished

- Return your chair to the upright position to allow your IV to be removed and blood pressure to be taken.
- Schedule your next appointment before your leave.
- Be sure you have a hard copy of your Standing Lab Order to bring with you to the lab. Orders are faxed, however, in the event the lab is unable to locate the order, your hard copy can be used.

### After Your Infusion

- Continue to stay hydrated and eat well. Avoid caffeine.
- For any adverse reactions or symptoms, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.
- For any questions or concerns, please notify Dr. Hussain's office at 512-920-0140.

<b>Reminder: Infusion Appointments are for Infusions Only</b>
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No medication changes or adjustments will be made on the day of your infusion.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- We cannot lift or transfer patients. If you need assistance for lifting, transferring to a chair or going to the restroom when you arrive or during the day, a family member/ caregiver must be available to help you.
- For Confidentiality, Privacy and Safety reasons - Family/guests are not allowed in the Infusion Suite unless you require their assistance to transfer to a chair or to sign consents. Once that is done they must return to the waiting room immediately.
- There is a restroom available, however, if you have problems with bladder or bowel incontinence or urgency, please wear and bring pads/other sanitary supplies.
- During the entire length of the infusion (including any required observation time after the infusion) you must stay in the infusion suite - this is for your protection. (You cannot leave to smoke.)
- You will be sharing a room with other patients. Odors may trigger allergic reactions or create health problems for other patients or employees. Please refrain from odors from any source such as perfume, cigarette smoke, scented products, foods, animal odor/hair etc. on your person, clothing and personal items.
- For health reasons, please keep your shoes and socks on.
- Please bring your own blanket. We do provide disposable blankets for one time use if necessary.
- Each and every patient has an individual treatment plan. In compliance with HIPAA and due to the lack of privacy in the infusion suite, please respect other patients right to

privacy as we discuss each patient's medical history, vital signs, treatment and effects of medications. If you prefer this conversation to be done in a more private setting, please notify the nurse prior to your infusion so we can make arrangements.