



Natalizumab biosimilar: Patient Information Sheet

What is natalizumab?

Natalizumab is a medicine used to treat highly active relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS). It belongs to a group of medicines called monoclonal antibodies.

What is natalizumab used for?

MS causes inflammation in the brain, which damages the nerve cells. This inflammation happens when white blood cells get into the brain and spinal cord. Natalizumab reduces nerve damage caused by MS by stopping the white blood cells getting through to the brain.

How is natalizumab made?

Natalizumab is a biological medicine. Biological medicines are medicines made or derived from living cells. Biological medicines were first used to treat people with serious illnesses in the UK over 20 years ago and they have improved the lives of millions of people worldwide.

What versions of natalizumab are available in the UK?

Until recently, only one pharmaceutical company made natalizumab. Now another company make a biosimilar natalizumab.

What is biosimilar natalizumab?

Biosimilar natalizumab is a highly similar copy of the original natalizumab medicine. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a biosimilar as a medicine that is similar in terms of quality, safety and effectiveness to the original licensed product.



Are biosimilars safe?

The body in the UK who regulate medicines is the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). All medicines have to pass rigorous tests for quality, biological activity, safety and effectiveness. Biosimilar medicines pass the same tests as the original medicine.

What does treatment with biosimilar natalizumab mean for you?

Whether you are due to start treatment with natalizumab for the first time or have agreed with your clinician that your treatment will change from Tysabri® to biosimilar natalizumab (Tyruko®), you can expect the same results.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) produces guidance for healthcare. If NICE recommends the original biological medicine in their guidance, the same recommendation applies to the biosimilar medicines.

All versions of natalizumab can cause similar side effects. If you experience any problems with your treatment, report it promptly to your treating clinician, nurse or pharmacist.

What are the benefits of biosimilars?

Many original biological medicines are expensive and the number of conditions they treat is increasing. Biosimilar medicines are highly similar to the original medicines and have the same quality, safety and effectiveness as well as being less expensive.

Therefore, the savings made by using biosimilars allow the NHS to treat more patients.

Further advice

If you have further questions about natalizumab or biosimilars, then please speak to a member of your neurology or pharmacy team.