

Infliximab Infusions and Billing

Infliximab is a medicine given through an IV to treat inflammation. This flyer discusses the drug, its cost and how to pay for it.

What is infliximab?

Infliximab is a medicine given slowly through an IV. This way of giving medicine directly into a vein is called infusion. Infliximab blocks the action of a substance in your body called TNF-alpha. The purpose of TNF-alpha is to deliver messages between cells in your body. Too much TNF-alpha can cause your immune system to attack healthy tissues in your body. This causes inflammation. Blocking TNF-alpha with infliximab can reduce inflammation.

What is the schedule for infliximab therapy?

You will have an initial infusion, then infusions two and six weeks later. Depending on how your body responds, your healthcare provider decides the length of each infusion and the time between future infusions.

What are the side effects?

Infliximab can lower your ability to fight off infections. You may not get an infusion if you have an infection or are sick. Please call the clinic if you are sick.

The most common side effects of infliximab are nausea, headache and itchiness. Sometimes more serious side effects can happen, including shortness of breath or chest discomfort and anaphylaxis. Other effects include skin sores like psoriasis and, rarely, tumors.

We may ask you to take medicine before the infusions or give some at the beginning of your infusion to try to lower the chance of side effects.

Infliximab does not cause tuberculosis (TB). However, if you have inactive TB, infliximab may cause it to become active. Before getting your first infusion, you will need to see your primary doctor for a TB test.

What can I expect during the infusion?

- All patients must have an adult over 18 stay with them during the infusion.
 - You can eat and drink like usual before and during the infusion.
 - The infusion takes about 3 hours; sometimes longer, depending on how your body responds.
 - The nurse will take your temperature and blood pressure every 30 minutes during the infusion.
 - We will watch you for 30 minutes after the infusion is complete.
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To Learn More

- Gastroenterology 206-987-2521
- Rheumatology 206-987-2193
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

How do I make my next infusion appointment?

If you will have regular infusions of infliximab, ask if you are to make your next appointment at the time you are getting your infusion. Rheumatology families will get a call from scheduling to set up their next appointment.

If you have any questions, call your specialty clinic that initially ordered the infusion.

Insurance approval and charges for infliximab

Do most insurance companies approve infliximab infusions at Seattle Childrens?

Most insurance companies cover infliximab but require authorization before infusions. Some insurance companies will only authorize infliximab infusions at Seattle Children's for younger patients. These companies have policies requiring older patients to receive infliximab at home or in a designated infusion center.

We will request authorization from your insurance company. If your plan will not approve the infliximab infusion here, we will help you make a good transition to the site of care approved by your insurance company.

How much will an infliximab infusion cost?

Infliximab is a type of drug called biologics. Biologics may be more expensive than treatments you are used to getting. The total hospital charge for each infliximab infusion typically ranges from about \$11,000 to \$18,000 or even more depending on the dose your child requires. The amount you owe depends on your insurance coverage, and is usually much less than this. We recommend you ask about your deductible, co-insurance amount, and out-of-pocket maximum. Your out-of-pocket maximum is the total amount you will pay in the course of a year for all infusions.

What kinds of infusions charges will be billed?

Our Ambulatory Infusion Unit is a part of Seattle Children's and is considered a hospital-based clinic. These clinics are licensed as outpatient departments of the hospital. Billing rules require that infusion services are billed as outpatient hospital services.

Some insurance plans cover outpatient hospital services differently than other charges. This can change how much you owe. Contact your insurance company to find out what your coverage is for outpatient hospital services.

What should I do if I have concerns about being able to pay for services?

The drug companies that make infliximab and infliximab biosimilars have programs to help cover the cost of this medicine.

- For infliximab-abda (Renflexis) visit renflexis.com/financial-assistance
- For infliximab-dvvd (Inflectra) visit pfizerpro.com/product/inflectra/hcp/support/reimbursement-and-support
- For infliximab (Remicade) visit <https://remicade.com/cost-support.html>

Childrens has a generous financial assistance program. Applications are available at all clinic locations, or apply online at seattlechildrens.org/financialassistance. Financial Assistance is not an option to cover infusions when a payer requires the infusion to occur at an alternate location

You may also call 206-987-3333 to speak with a financial counselor.

Why do the amounts I am billed change for some infliximab infusions?

Billing regulations for infusions are complex. Charges may be different for infusions because they are based on:

- The cost of infliximab and the amount your child receives
- Other medicines given during the infusion
- The time it takes to give the infliximab and the other medicines

Who do I call with questions about my bill?

For questions about your Seattle Children's bill, contact Business Services at 206-987-5770, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Who do I call with last minute cancellations?

For last-minute cancellations call:

- Main campus Infusion Unit 206-987-2106
- Bellevue main number 425-454-4644
- South Clinic main number 253-838-5878