



WEST MICHIGAN DERMATOLOGY BIOLOGIC START-UP GUIDE

The following information is used as a guide for starting your _____ treatment plan. Please be advised that you are being prescribed a medication to be taken long term. We are always here to help and welcome any questions you may have!

STARTING A BIOLOGIC

- For children, discuss childhood vaccine history with their care provider, vaccines should be up to date prior to starting. *Please avoid use of live vaccines while on a biologic!* However, childhood immunizations are important. Please check with us if you have questions.
- Labs/Bloodwork will need to be complete **prior** to starting therapy.
- Sign appropriate paperwork for benefit verification and prior authorization. If at all possible this is done during your visit.
- Create a folder and/or notebook to store important specialty pharmacy info, insurance info, track when your injection is due.

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENTS

- Ask any questions regarding lab results, progress, the injection process etc.
- It is important to follow up with your Dermatology provider regularly. Please make sure you speak to your provider about how often you should follow up to receive refills.
- You will be required to have bloodwork, including a TB test done **yearly**.

INSURANCE: APPROVALS AND DENIALS

- The initial prior authorization can take up to **two weeks**. If it is denied, an appeal determination can take an additional 30-60 days. However, you may be able to start your medication prior to that time.
- Please be advised that you should expect phone calls from a specialty pharmacy, pharmaceutical company (for your prescribed biologic), and possibly your insurance plan/pharmacy. These calls are time sensitive and will need a response. If you don't respond will potentially delay the process of getting your medication.

If you lose your insurance, there are programs which can supply your medication for free in the interim!
Notify us ASAP

Please call the office if you are no longer interested in starting this medication. Otherwise, you will be receiving multiple phone calls from insurance and pharmacies. Please check your voicemail. Delete old voicemails. Return phone calls.

SPECIALTY PHARMACY

**Your Insurance Preferred
Specialty Pharmacy:**

Contact #:

- Specialty medications must be filled through a specialty pharmacy that will set up delivery and ship overnight to your home.
- Your Specialty pharmacy WILL be mandated by your insurance. However, sometimes we use other specialty pharmacies to help with the approval process and they also may be able to deliver your medication.
- Please make sure to answer the calls from the specialty pharmacy to set up your delivery.
 - o If you do not provide verbal consent, your medication will NOT be sent.