- This leaflet is a guide for physicians, nurses and pharmacists to the safe and efficient use of MabThera 1400 mg solution for subcutaneous injection (referred to as MabThera SC).
- The enclosed information pertains to the supply, storage, handling and administration of MabThera SC.
- **The guidance given is specific to the subcutaneous formulation only**.

* MabThera SC is indicated in adults for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) only:

- for the treatment of previously untreated patients with stage III–IV follicular lymphoma (FL) in combination with chemotherapy
- as maintenance therapy for the treatment of patients with FL responding to induction therapy
- for the treatment of patients with CD20 positive diffuse large B-cell NHL in combination with CHOP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine and prednisolone) chemotherapy.

The use of MabThera SC as once-weekly monotherapy in patients with stage III–IV follicular lymphoma who are chemoresistant or are in their second or subsequent relapse after chemotherapy cannot be recommended as the safety of the once weekly administration has not been established.

The recommended dosage is a fixed dose of 1400 mg, irrespective of the patient's body surface area.

If you have any further questions, please refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics, or contact Roche Medical Information by emailing **Ireland.druginfo@roche.com** or calling **00 353 (0)1 4690700**.

Important reminder:

Reporting of suspected adverse events or reactions

Reporting suspected adverse events or reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions (see details below).

Where possible, healthcare professionals should report adverse events or reactions by brand name and batch number.

In the event of a suspected adverse event, please report it to:
Post: The Drug Surveillance Centre, Roche Products (Ireland) Limited, 3004 Lake Drive, Citywest, Naas Road, Dublin 24, Ireland.
Telephone: 00 353 (0)1 4690700
Email: ireland.drug_surveillance_centre@roche.com

Alternatively, suspected adverse reactions (side effects) or medication errors may be reported using the Medicines Authority ADR reporting form, which is available online at: http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal, and sent by post or email to:
Post: Pharmacovigilance Section at Post-Licensing Directorate, Medicines Authority, Sir Temi Żammit Buildings, Malta Life Sciences Park, San Ġwann SĠN 3000, Malta.
Email: postlicensing.medicinesauthority@gov.mt

Further Information

For additional electronic copies of this risk minimisation material, refer to the Malta Medicines Authority website [http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/rmm] and download the required material. **Alternatively if you would like hard copies**, please contact Roche Products (Ireland) Limited, 3004 Lake Drive, Citywest, Naas Road, Dublin 24, Ireland by mail, telephone [00 353 (0)1 4690700], or email [ireland.drug_surveillance_centre@roche.com].

For further information about this medicine, please contact Medical Information at Roche Products (Ireland) Limited by telephone [00 353 (0)1 4690700] or email [Ireland.druginfo@roche.com].

MT v11.0.0
Date of Malta Medicines Authority Approval: September 2019

MabThera® 1400 mg solution for subcutaneous injection Rituximab FOR NHL ONLY*

Guide to supply, storage, handling and administration

This educational material is provided by Roche Products (Ireland) Limited and is mandatory as a condition of the Marketing Authorisation in order to further minimise important selected risks.

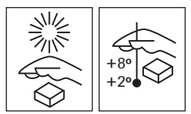
MT v11.0.0
Date of Malta Medicines Authority Approval: September 2019

Supply, storage and handling of MabThera 1400 mg solution for subcutaneous injection†

How MabThera SC is supplied

- Each carton contains one glass vial.
- Each vial contains 11.7 ml of sterile, non-pyrogenic and preservative-free solution (extractable volume is equivalent to one dose for administration to the patient).
- The solution is clear to opalescent, colourless to yellowish. Do not use if you notice unusual colouration or presence of visible particles.
- Composition:
  - The active ingredient of MabThera SC is rituximab (1400 mg per vial).
  - The excipients are:
    - Recombinant human hyaluronidase (rHuPH20): this is an enzyme used to increase the dispersion and absorption of co-administered drugs when administered subcutaneously. It allows the injection of larger volumes via the subcutaneous route.
    - Other excipients: L-histidine, L-histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, α,α-trehalose dihydrate, L-methionine, polysorbate 80 and water for injections.
  - The pH of the solution is between 5 and 6.

How MabThera SC should be stored



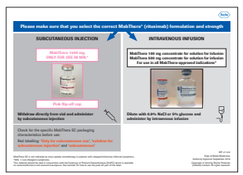
- Keep the vial in the outer carton to protect MabThera SC from light.
- Store MabThera SC in a refrigerator (2–8ºC). DO NOT FREEZE.
- Check the expiry date on the outer carton.

How to handle MabThera SC†

- Before handling MabThera SC please check the packaging to ensure you have the correct formulation and strength; all have different colour packaging.

Check for the specific MabThera SC packaging characteristics:

Please refer to the comparison card (pictured here) for further detail



- MabThera SC is ready to use; the whole content of the vial (1400 mg rituximab) should be injected.
- MabThera SC does not contain any antimicrobial preservative and, as with all unpreserved sterile solutions, should be used immediately.
- No incompatibilities have been observed between MabThera SC and the following: polypropylene or polycarbonate syringe material, stainless steel transfer and injection needles, polyethylene Luer cone stoppers.

Administration of MabThera 1400 mg solution for subcutaneous injection†

Important reminder:

- All patients **must** receive their **first dose** of MabThera **by intravenous infusion**, using MabThera concentrate for solution for infusion.
- MabThera SC should only be given at the second or subsequent cycle of treatment.
- Premedication consisting of an anti-pyretic and an anti-histaminic, e.g. paracetamol and diphenhydramine, should always be given before each administration of MabThera. Premedication with glucocorticoids should be considered if MabThera is not given in combination with glucocorticoid-containing chemotherapy for the treatment of NHL.
- MabThera SC should be administered in an environment where full resuscitation facilities are immediately available and under the close supervision of an experienced healthcare professional.

1. Prepare the patient for injection

- The patient should be asked to lean back in a reclining chair or a bed and to make their abdominal region accessible for injection.

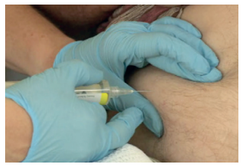
2. Prepare the injection site

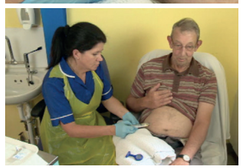
- The selected abdominal site should be thoroughly disinfected as per local practice.
- Each injection should be given at a different site and never into areas where the skin is red, bruised, tender, hard, or into areas where there are moles or scars.

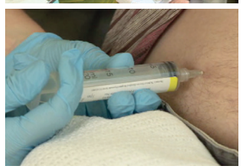
3. Prepare MabThera SC for injection

- Prepare the syringe at the time of its administration.
- Draw up the whole content of the vial (1400 mg rituximab).
- Ensure use of a needle suitable for subcutaneous injection.
- Hold the syringe at room temperature (maximum 30ºC) for 5 minutes, to reduce the viscosity of MabThera SC and so facilitate easy injection.**
- Attach the hypodermic injection needle to the syringe **immediately prior to administration** to avoid potential needle clogging.

4. Perform the injection







- Pinch the skin of the abdomen with one hand to create a skin fold: this will facilitate the injection.
- Insert the injection needle into the skin fold with the other hand, using a sterile technique.
- Release the skin fold and apply pressure on the syringe, slowly injecting MabThera SC into the subcutaneous tissue.
- **Administer MabThera SC over approximately 5 minutes.**
  - **Using the palm of the hand to depress the plunger can help to maintain a constant flow rate**.
  - **Ensure the full content of the syringe is injected into the subcutaneous tissue**.
- After application, the injection site may be covered with a dressing, as per local clinical practice.

5. Inform the patient that they may leave

- Observe the patient for **at least 15 minutes** following MabThera SC administration. A longer period of observation may be appropriate in patients with an increased risk of hypersensitivity reactions.
- If the patient is not receiving any further treatment after the MabThera SC injection, and if the patient is not presenting with any adverse reaction to the injection, the patient may leave the clinic.
- Many patients experience some side effects at or around the MabThera SC injection site. These local side effects include pain, swelling, bruising, bleeding, skin redness, itching and rash.
- Instruct the patient to contact their doctor immediately if the following symptoms occur: breathing difficulties, tongue or throat swelling, vomiting or palpitations, as they could be indicative of an allergic reaction.

† Please refer to the MabThera SC Summary of Product Characteristics for further information. www.medicines.ie or www.ema.europa.eu

** According to local clinical practice. Please check MabThera SC maximum shelf life after first opening.