

**The Eden Medical Group**

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**Dr Joanne Daly, Dr Sam Barnes, Dr Victoria Brown, Dr Paul King,**

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Dear Patient

We have been reviewing the way the practice manages those patients taking medication for example methotrexate, azathioprine, leflunomide or “biologics” such as adalimumab and are writing to let you know about some changes we are making.

These medications are often termed “high risk” medication and is the reason that you are invited in for regular blood tests at the practice.

The aims of our review are to ensure that we have a robust and safe system for managing patients on this medication and improve the quality of care we are providing.

Here are some of the changes we are making

* The appointment with the nurse/Health Care Assistant will be more comprehensive – you should be asked for more information about how you are getting on and what the follow up arrangements at the hospital are.
* The results of the blood tests will be shared with you along with any instructions about changes in monitoring frequency or specific instructions to miss a dose. We will ask you at a future appointment how you would like to be contacted about your results and will then let you know your result via either a text or a letter.
* Where there is a significant abnormality requiring more urgent action we will contact you by text, phone or letter.
* We are reviewing the frequency monitoring is needed to ensure it follows the guidelines agreed between the hospital specialists and Primary Care – you may find that you need fewer monitoring tests.
* We will be letting you know if your monitoring appointment is overdue and if you do not make an appointment, will review the prescription and whether or not it is safe to continue prescribing. Dependent on the circumstance, we may reduce the quantity we prescribe or withhold a prescription until you have attended an appointment.
* For safety reasons, we are bringing the prescriptions quantities of azathioprine, mercaptopurine, and leflunomide into line with methotrexate and will only be issuing a 4 week supply of the prescription.
* If you require a prescription of the within a week of your monitoring appointment, you will be able to ask the HCA/nurse at your appointment and she will request a prescription. Please be aware there may be a delay of up to 48 hours before this will be processed.

If you have any queries then please speak to the nurse

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