

Please don't Ignore this.

The **Ig** Criteria are changing.

FACTSHEET FOR PATIENTS:

Version 3 Criteria coming soon!

WHEN IS THE CRITERIA CHANGING?

The *Criteria for the Clinical Use of Immunoglobulin in Australia* (the *Criteria*) is changing to Version 3 from 22 October 2018.

The *Criteria* will be available at www.criteria.blood.gov.au.

Information for each medical condition can be viewed from the www.criteria.blood.gov.au website page if required.

WHY IS THE CRITERIA CHANGING?

To align with new evidence

To ensure those whose health is most likely to be improved with Ig therapy can get it

To manage the growth in demand for this precious, human-derived product.

Immunoglobulin (Ig) use should be prescribed for the treatment of patients who are likely to get better or improve and where there are no safe and useful alternative treatments.

Ig is provided free of charge to patients who have a medical condition that meets the qualifying criteria as described in the *Criteria*.

The *Criteria* helps to ensure that Ig funded by governments is available consistently across Australia for patients whose health is likely to be improved with Ig therapy.

The *Criteria* was developed following advice from specialist doctors and has been reviewed using the best available medical evidence and expertise.

The demand for Ig in Australia continues to grow at more than 10% every year. In 2016-17, a total of 5.54 million grams of Ig was issued, at a cost of \$532.3 million nationally. A large amount of Ig is imported from overseas suppliers.

As Ig use and costs continue to grow in Australia, the focus of Australian governments is to prevent shortages and ensure that Ig is able to be accessed consistently for those patients with the greatest clinical need.

HOW WILL THE CHANGES AFFECT ME?

For a small number of medical conditions the *Criteria* now requires a particular type of doctor to make the diagnosis or care for the patient. If you have one of these conditions you may need to see a different doctor. Information about important changes to each medical condition will be at www.blood.gov.au/igcriteria-version3 as it becomes available.

In some cases your doctor may need you to have certain tests so they can assess whether Ig therapy is needed or is working well for you. Your doctor may need to report the results of your tests.

You may need to reduce your dose or have a trial off Ig therapy to see if you really need to keep using it. Many patients do just as well after stopping Ig therapy because their body has recovered.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You should talk to your doctor to find out how these changes might affect you. More information will be added to the *Criteria* 3 information page www.blood.gov.au/igcriteria-version3 as it becomes available.