

## READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

### PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

Pr**REMSIMA™ SC** (pronounced) <<Rem-see-mah>>  
(**infliximab for subcutaneous injection**)

**Sterile Solution, 120 mg / pre-filled pen**

Read this carefully before you start taking **REMSIMA SC** and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about **REMSIMA SC**.

#### Serious Warnings and Precautions

- Serious infections, including sepsis, tuberculosis, legionellosis (a serious form of bacterial pneumonia), listeriosis (an infection that usually develops after eating food contaminated by bacteria called listeria) and opportunistic infections (such as systemic fungal, viral, and bacterial infections) have been reported in patients, especially in those 65 years and older, receiving infliximab and other similar medicines. Some patients with these infections have died. Prior to treatment with **REMSIMA SC**, you should tell your doctor if you have a chronic infection, a history of recurrent infection, or if you have lived in or traveled to an area where infections called histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis or blastomycosis are common. These infections are caused by fungus that can affect the lungs or other parts of your body. Ask your doctor if you don't know if these infections are common in the area in which you have lived or traveled. If you develop an infection during treatment with **REMSIMA SC**, you should tell your doctor right away.
- Prior to treatment with **REMSIMA SC**, you should tell your doctor if you have had tuberculosis, or if you have been exposed recently to anyone who might have tuberculosis, or if you have any other reason to believe you may be at risk for tuberculosis. Your doctor will evaluate you for tuberculosis and may begin treatment for tuberculosis before you are treated with **REMSIMA SC**.
- Treatment with **REMSIMA SC** must be interrupted if you develop a serious infection or sepsis. Tell your doctor if you have any symptoms of an infection (for example, fever, fatigue, cough, flu-like symptoms, or pain) while you are taking **REMSIMA SC** and for 6 months after you receive the medicine.
- If you need surgery, tell your doctor that you have taken **REMSIMA SC**.
- Lymphoma and other cancers, which may result in death, have been reported in children and teenage patients taking TNF- blockers, including infliximab. Some patients who have received TNF-blockers, including infliximab have developed a rare type of cancer called hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma. Of these patients, most were teenage or young adult males and most had either Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. This type of cancer often results in death. Almost all patients had also received drugs known as azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine in addition to TNF-blockers. You should also tell your doctor if you have had or develop lymphoma or other cancers while you are taking **REMSIMA SC**.

#### What is **REMSIMA SC** used for?

- **REMSIMA SC** (pronounced) <<Rem-see-mah>> is a medicine that is used in people with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (in combination with methotrexate). Your doctor has chosen to treat your rheumatoid arthritis with **REMSIMA SC** because you have moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis.

#### How does **REMSIMA SC** work?

Research has shown that in these diseases the body overproduces a substance known as tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF alpha). The active ingredient in **REMSIMA SC** is called infliximab. Infliximab is a monoclonal antibody, a type of protein that recognizes and binds to other unique proteins. Infliximab binds to and neutralizes TNF alpha. Infliximab is made from mouse and human proteins.

**REMSIMA SC** is a medicine that affects your immune system. **REMSIMA SC** can lower the ability of your immune system to fight infections.

**What are the ingredients in REMSIMA SC?**

Medicinal ingredient: Infliximab

Non-medicinal ingredients: Acetic acid, polysorbate 80, sodium acetate trihydrate, sorbitol, water for injections.

No preservatives are present.

**REMSIMA SC comes in the following dosage forms:**

It is supplied as a solution for SC injection in individually-boxed single-use 1 mL pre-filled pen of 120 mg infliximab.

**Do not use REMSIMA SC if:**

- you have a severe infection, such as sepsis (an infection in the bloodstream), abscess, tuberculosis or other serious infection.
- you have heart failure that is moderate or severe.
- you have an allergy to infliximab or any ingredient in **REMSIMA SC** (acetic acid, polysorbate 80, sodium acetate trihydrate and sorbitol), or if you have a history of allergies to mouse proteins.

**To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take REMSIMA SC. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you have:**

- Congestive heart failure: If you have mild heart failure and you are being treated with **REMSIMA SC** your heart failure status must be closely monitored by your doctor. Tell your doctor immediately if you develop new or worsening symptoms of heart failure (such as shortness of breath or swelling of your feet).
- Other heart problems: Some patients have experienced a heart attack (some of which led to death), low blood flow to the heart, or abnormal heart rhythm within 24 hours of receiving infliximab. Symptoms may include chest discomfort or pain, arm pain, stomach pain, shortness of breath, anxiety, lightheadedness, dizziness, fainting, sweating, nausea, vomiting, fluttering or pounding in your chest, and/or a fast or a slow heartbeat. Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these symptoms.
- Immediate allergic reactions: Some patients who have received infliximab have developed allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. Some reactions can happen while you are getting your treatment or shortly afterwards. Some of these reactions have been serious. The symptoms include hives, difficulty breathing, chest pain and high or low blood pressure. Your doctor may decide to stop **REMSIMA SC** treatment for severe reactions. Your doctor can prescribe medicines to treat these effects.
- Delayed allergic reactions: Some allergic reactions can occur 1 to 12 days after **REMSIMA SC** treatment. The symptoms of this type of delayed reaction include muscle or joint pain with fever or rash. Tell your doctor if you notice any of these symptoms.
- Nervous system diseases: Tell your doctor if you have a disease that affects your nervous system, like multiple sclerosis, neuropathies, Guillain-Barré syndrome, or seizures, or you have been diagnosed with optic neuritis, or if you experience any numbness, tingling, or visual disturbances. Some patients have reported that their nervous system disease got worse after receiving infliximab.
- Autoimmune disease: Some patients treated with infliximab have developed symptoms that suggest an autoimmune disease called lupus-like syndrome. Tell your doctor if you notice symptoms of lupus-like syndrome, such as, prolonged chest discomfort or pain, shortness of breath, joint pain, or sun-sensitive rash on the cheeks or arms. Your doctor will evaluate your condition and may decide to stop your treatment with **REMSIMA SC**.
- Liver injury: There have been cases where people taking infliximab have developed liver problems. Signs that you could be having a problem include: jaundice (skin and eyes turning yellow), dark brown-colored urine, right sided abdominal pain, fever, and severe fatigue (tiredness). You should contact your doctor immediately if you develop any of these symptoms.
- Blood problems: In some instances, patients treated with TNF-blocking agents may develop low blood

counts, including a severely decreased number of white blood cells. If you develop symptoms such as persistent fever or infections, bleeding, or bruising, you should contact your doctor right away.

- Stroke: Some patients have experienced a stroke within approximately 24 hours of receiving infliximab. Tell your doctor right away if you have symptoms of a stroke which may include: numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body, sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding, sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination or a sudden, severe headache.
- Hepatitis B: Treatment with TNF-blocking agents such as **REMSIMA SC** may result in a reactivation of the hepatitis B virus in people who carry this virus. If you have or have had hepatitis B infection or know or suspect you may be a carrier of hepatitis B virus, be sure to tell your doctor about this as this may impact the decision to start or continue treatment with **REMSIMA SC**. Your doctor should do a blood test for hepatitis B virus before you start treatment with **REMSIMA SC**.
- Vaccination: Tell your doctor that you have received **REMSIMA SC** if you need to get a vaccination. It is not known if medicines like **REMSIMA SC** can interfere with vaccinations. You should not receive live vaccines while you are taking **REMSIMA SC**. The use of a 'live' vaccine may result in an infection caused by the 'live' vaccine or bacteria contained in the vaccine (when you have a weakened immune system). It is recommended that you be brought up to date with all vaccinations in agreement with current guidelines prior to starting **REMSIMA SC**.
- Therapeutic infectious agents: Tell your doctor if you have recently received or are scheduled to receive treatment with a therapeutic infectious agent (such as BCG instillation used for the treatment of cancer).
- Pregnancy, breast-feeding and ability to have children: If you are being treated with **REMSIMA SC**, you must avoid becoming pregnant by using adequate contraception during your treatment and for 6 months after your last **REMSIMA SC** injection. Tell your doctor if you think you may be pregnant, are breastfeeding, or planning to conceive a child. Your doctor will help you decide whether or not to use **REMSIMA SC**. If you have a baby and you were using **REMSIMA SC** during your pregnancy, it is important to tell your baby's doctor and other healthcare professionals about your **REMSIMA SC** use so they can decide when your baby should receive their vaccinations, including live vaccines, such as BCG (used to prevent tuberculosis). If you received **REMSIMA SC** while you were pregnant, your baby may be at higher risk for getting an infection. It is important that you tell your baby's doctors and other health care professionals about your **REMSIMA SC** use before the baby receives any vaccine. Administration of BCG vaccine within 6 months after birth to the baby whose mother received **REMSIMA SC** while pregnant may result in infection in the newborn with severe complications, including death. For other types of vaccines, discuss with your doctor. Breast feeding is not recommended during treatment and for 6 months after the last dose of **REMSIMA SC**. Your doctor will help you decide whether or not to use **REMSIMA SC**. Severely decreased numbers of white blood cells have also been reported in infants born to women treated with infliximab during pregnancy. If your baby has continual fevers or infections, contact your baby's doctor immediately. It is not known if **REMSIMA SC** can affect your ability to have children in the future.

#### **Other warnings you should know about:**

Reports of a type of blood cancer called lymphoma in patients on infliximab or other TNF-blockers are rare but occur more often than expected for people in general. People who have been treated for rheumatoid arthritis or Crohn's disease for a long time, particularly those with highly active disease, may be more prone to develop lymphoma. Cancers, other than lymphoma have also been reported. There have been cases of cancers, including unusual types, in children and teenage patients taking TNF-blocking agents, which sometimes resulted in death. For children and adults taking TNF-blocker medicines, the chances of getting lymphoma or other cancers may increase.

Some patients treated with infliximab have developed certain kinds of skin cancer. If any changes in the appearance of the skin or growths on the skin occur during or after therapy, tell your doctor.

Some women being treated for rheumatoid arthritis with infliximab have developed cervical cancer. For women taking **REMSIMA SC**, including those over 60 years of age, your doctor may recommend that you continue to be regularly screened for cervical cancer.

Patients with a specific type of lung disease called COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) may be at increased risk for cancer with **REMSIMA SC** treatment. If you have COPD you should discuss with your doctor whether **REMSIMA SC** is appropriate for you.

**Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.**

**The following may interact with REMSIMA SC:**

- Tell your doctor about all medicines that you have recently taken or are taking during your treatment with **REMSIMA SC**. These include any other medicines to treat rheumatoid arthritis. Drugs that may interact with **REMSIMA SC** include: prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- Patients with rheumatoid arthritis often take other medicines that can cause side effects. Special studies have not been done to determine whether other medicines will react with **REMSIMA SC**.
- Especially, tell your doctor if you take KINERET® (anakinra) or ORENCIA® (abatacept). **REMSIMA SC** should not be taken together with anakinra or abatacept.
- If you have a baby while you are using **REMSIMA SC**, tell your baby's doctor about your **REMSIMA SC** use before the baby receives any live vaccines.

**How to take REMSIMA SC:**

- **REMSIMA SC** 120 mg solution for injection is administered by injection under the skin (subcutaneous use) only. It is important to check the product labels to ensure that the correct formulation is being given as prescribed.
- **REMSIMA SC** is intended to be used for maintenance therapy after you have already taken at least two infusions of intravenous infliximab. The initial two intravenous infusions will be given to you by your doctor or nurse.
- After the first two intravenous infusions, the first dose of **REMSIMA SC** will be administered under the supervision of your doctor.
- After proper training, if you feel you are well-trained and confident to inject **REMSIMA SC** yourself, your doctor may allow you to inject subsequent doses of **REMSIMA SC** yourself at home.
- Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about giving yourself an injection. You will find detailed "Instructions for Use" at the end of this leaflet.

**Tell all doctors involved in your care that you take REMSIMA SC.**

**Usual dose:**

Rheumatoid Arthritis:

Your doctor will start your treatment with two intravenous infliximab infusion doses of 3 mg for every kg of body weight (given to you into a vein, usually in your arm, over a period of 2 hours). They are administered 2 weeks apart via intravenous infusion. After 4 weeks from the last intravenous infusion, you will be given **REMSIMA SC** via injection under the skin (subcutaneous injection).

The usual recommended dose of **REMSIMA SC** subcutaneous injection is 120 mg once every 2 weeks regardless of weight.

**Overdose**

Repeated doses of the subcutaneous infliximab up to 240 mg have been administered without direct toxic effects. In case of overdosage, it is recommended that the patient be monitored for any signs or symptoms of adverse reactions or effects and appropriate treatment instituted immediately.

If you think you have taken too much **REMSIMA SC**, contact your healthcare professional, hospital emergency department or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms. Always have the outer carton of the medicine with you, even if it is empty.

**Missed Dose**

Missed dose for up to 7 days

If you miss a dose of **REMSIMA SC** for up to 7 days after the original scheduled dose, you should take the missed dose immediately. Take your next dose on the next originally planned date and thereafter bi-weekly.

Missed dose for 8 days or more

If you miss a dose of **REMSIMA SC** for 8 days or more after the original scheduled dose, you should not take the missed dose. Take your next dose on the next originally planned date and thereafter bi-weekly.

If you are not sure when to inject **REMSIMA SC**, call your doctor.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

**What are possible side effects from using REMSIMA SC?**

These are not all the possible side effects you may feel when taking **REMSIMA SC**. If you experience any side effects not listed here, contact your healthcare professional.

Some patients had side effects that caused them to stop **REMSIMA SC** treatment. The most common reasons were shortness of breath, rash, and headache.

Other common side effects besides the ones already mentioned in this leaflet include abdominal pain, back pain, coughing, diarrhea, dizziness, fatigue, itchiness, pain, upper respiratory infections (such as bronchitis, sinusitis, cold, sore throat), upset stomach, and urinary tract infections. **REMSIMA SC** may have a minor influence on the ability to drive and use of machines. Dizziness may occur after receiving **REMSIMA SC**.

Some of the side effects of **REMSIMA SC** can be serious and may require treatment.

Tell your doctor if you experience any of the effects listed in this leaflet or any other side effects.

<b>Serious side effects and what to do about them</b>			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
<b>COMMON</b>			
Local injection site reaction: Symptoms of redness, pain, itching, swelling, hardness, bruising, bleeding, cold sensation, tingling sensation, irritation, rash, ulcer, hives and scab.		✓	
Serious infections: symptoms of fever, feel very tired, have a cough or have flu-like symptoms or develop an abscess.		✓	
Allergic reactions: Symptoms while you are getting your <b>REMSIMA SC</b> injection or shortly afterwards of hives (red, raised, itchy patches of skin), difficulty breathing, chest pain and high or low blood pressure or symptoms 1 to 12 days after receiving <b>REMSIMA SC</b> including fever, rash, headache and muscle or joint pain.		✓	
<b>UNCOMMON</b>			
Liver injury: signs that you could be having a problem include: jaundice (skin and eyes turning yellow), dark brown-coloured urine, right sided		✓	

<b>Serious side effects and what to do about them</b>			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
abdominal pain, fever and severe fatigue (tiredness).			
Heart failure: If you have been told that you have a heart problem called congestive heart failure, you will need to be closely monitored by your doctor. New or worse symptoms that are related to your heart condition, including shortness of breath or swelling of your ankles or feet.		✓	
Blood problems: symptoms of fever that doesn't go away, bruising or bleeding very easily or looking very pale.		✓	
Nervous system disorders: signs include changes in your vision, (including blindness), seizures, weakness in your arms and/or legs, and numbness or tingling in any part of your body.		✓	
Malignancy: if you have had or develop lymphoma or other cancers while you are taking <b>REMSIMA SC</b> .		✓	
Lupus: symptoms may include chest discomfort or pain that doesn't go away, shortness of breath, joint pain, or a rash on the cheeks or arms that gets worse in the sun.		✓	
<b>RARE</b>			
Skin problems: skin rashes including redness, itching, skin peeling and blistering; Small pus-filled bumps that can spread over the body, sometimes with a fever (acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis); Itchy reddish-purple skin rash and/or threadlike white-grey lines on mucous membranes (lichenoid reactions)		✓	
Lung problems: symptoms of new or worsening shortness of breath.		✓	

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, talk to your healthcare professional.

#### **Reporting Side Effects**

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on [Adverse Reaction Reporting](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html) (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

**Storage**

- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the label and the carton after “EXP”. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Store in a refrigerator (2°C - 8°C). Do not freeze. Keep the medicinal product in its outer carton to protect from light.
- This medicine can also be stored in the original carton outside of refrigerated storage up to a maximum of 25°C for a single period of up to 28 days, but not beyond the original expiry date. In this situation, do not return to refrigerated storage again. Write the new expiry date on the carton including day/month/year. Discard this medicine if not used by the new expiry date or the expiry date printed on the carton, whichever is earlier.
- Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

**If you want more information about REMSIMA SC:**

- Talk to your healthcare professional.
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the [Health Canada website](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html). (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>).

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Last Revised: January 28, 2021

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## Instructions for use

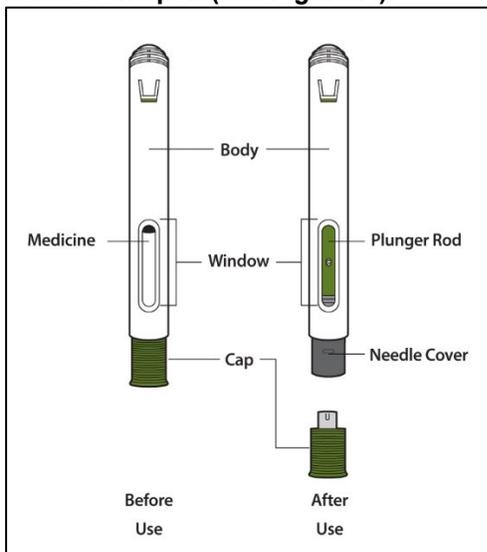
Read carefully these instructions before using the **REMSIMA SC** pen. Consult your healthcare provider if you have questions about using the **REMSIMA SC** pen.

## Important information

- Use the pen **ONLY** if your healthcare provider has trained you on the right way to prepare for and to give an injection.
- Ask your healthcare provider how often you will need to give an injection.
- Rotate the injection site each time you give an injection. Each new injection site should be at least 3 cm away from the previous injection site.
- **Do not** use the pen if it has been dropped or is visibly damaged. A damaged pen may not function properly.
- **Do not** reuse the pen.
- **Do not** shake the pen at any time.

## About the REMSIMA SC pen

### Parts of the pen (see *Figure A*):



*Figure A*

- **Do not** remove the cap until you are ready to inject. Once you remove the cap, **do not** recap the pen.

## Prepare for the injection

### 1. Gather the supplies for the injection.

- a. Prepare a clean, flat surface, such as a table or countertop, in a well-lit area.
- b. Remove the pen from the carton stored in your refrigerator.
- c. Ensure you have the following supplies:
  - Pen
  - Alcohol swab
  - Cotton ball or gauze\*
  - Adhesive bandage\*
  - Sharps disposal container\*

*\*Items not included in the carton.*

## 2. Inspect the pen.

**Do not** use the pen if:

- It is cracked or damaged.
- The expiration date has passed.

## 3. Inspect the medicine (see *Figure B*).

**Do not** use the pen if the liquid is different to clear colourless or pale brown or contains particles in it.

*Note: You may see air bubbles in the liquid. This is normal.*

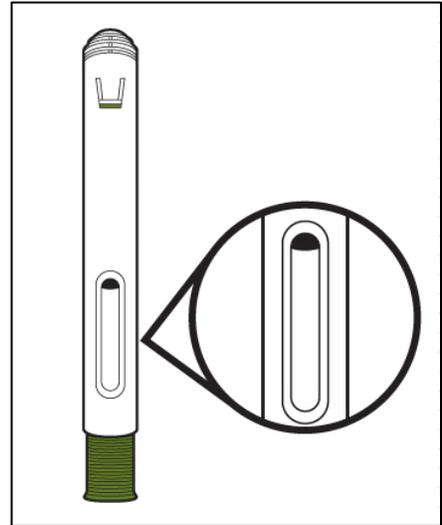


Figure B

## 4. Wait 30 minutes.

- a. Leave the pen at room temperature for 30 minutes to allow it to naturally warm up.

**Do not** warm the pen using heat sources such as hot water or a microwave.

## 5. Choose an injection site (see *Figure C*).

- a. Select an injection site. You may inject into:
  - The front of the thighs.
  - The abdomen except for the 5 cm around the belly button (navel).
  - The outer area of the upper arms (caregiver ONLY).

**Do not** inject into skin that is within 5 cm of your belly button (navel), or is tender, damaged, bruised, or scarred.

*Note: Rotate the injection site each time you give an injection. Each new injection site should be at least 3 cm away from the previous injection site.*

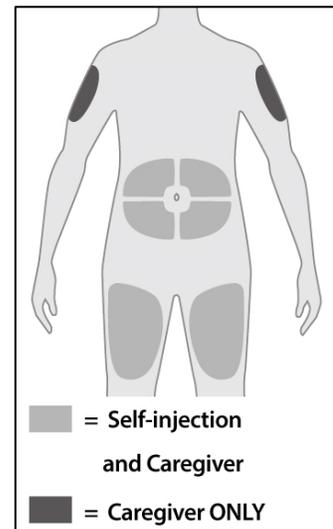


Figure C

## 6. Wash your hands.

- a. Wash your hands with soap and water and dry them thoroughly.

**7. Clean the injection site.**

- a. Clean the injection site with an alcohol swab.
- b. Let the skin dry before injecting.

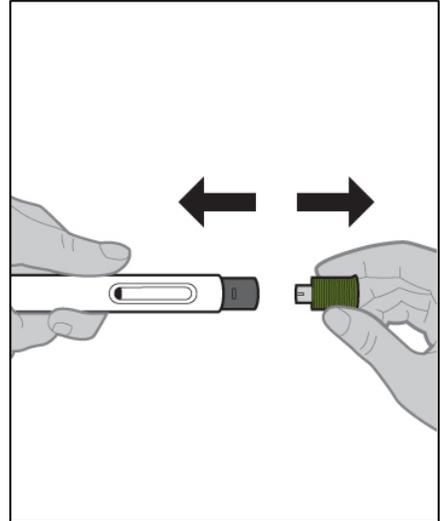
**Do not** blow on or touch the injection site again before giving the injection.

**Give the injection**

**8. Remove the cap (see *Figure D*).**

- a. Pull the olive green cap straight off and set it aside.

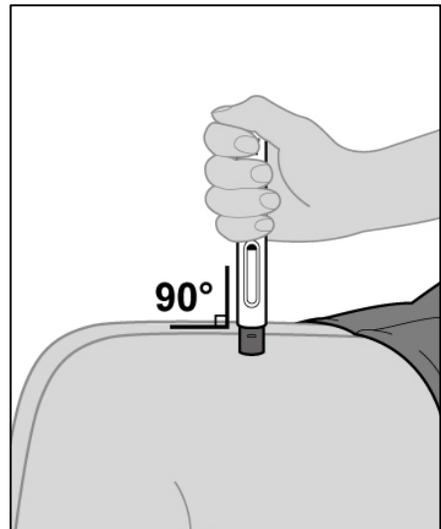
**Do not** touch the needle cover. Doing so may result in a needle stick injury.



*Figure D*

**9. Place the pen on the injection site (see *Figure E*).**

- a. Hold the pen so that you can see the window.
- b. Without pinching or stretching the skin, place the pen over the injection site at a 90-degree angle.



*Figure E*

**10. Start the injection (see Figure F).**

- a. Press the pen **firmly** against the skin.

*Note: When the injection starts you will hear the 1<sup>st</sup> loud “click” and the olive green plunger rod will begin to fill the window.*

- b. Keep holding the pen **firmly** against the skin and listen for the 2<sup>nd</sup> loud “click.”

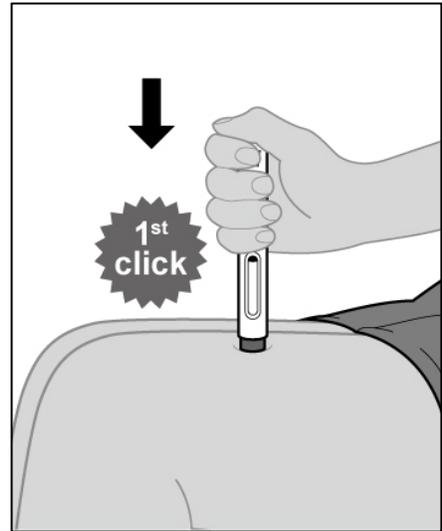


Figure F

**11. Finish the injection (see Figure G).**

- a. After you hear the 2<sup>nd</sup> loud “click,” **continue to hold the pen firmly against the skin and count slowly to at least five** to ensure you inject the full dose.

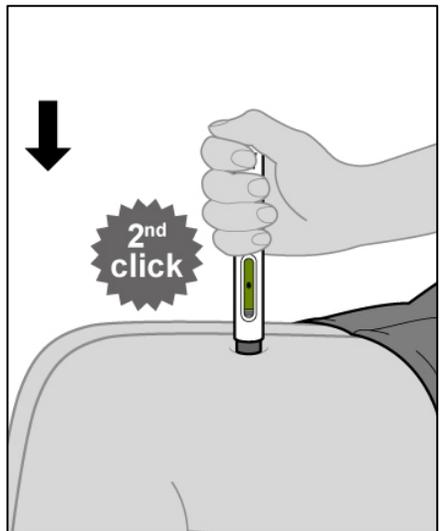


Figure G

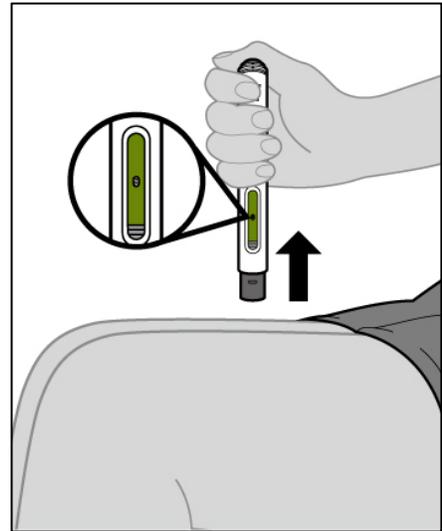
**12. Remove the pen from the injection site.**

- a. Look at the pen and confirm that the olive green plunger rod is filling the window completely.
- b. Lift the pen from the injection site (see *Figure H*).
- c. Gently press a cotton ball or gauze over the injection site and apply an adhesive bandage, if necessary.

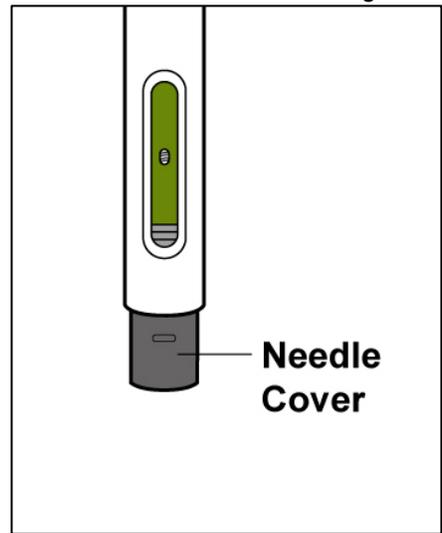
**Do not** rub the injection site.

*Note: After you remove the pen from the injection site, the needle will be automatically covered (see *Figure I*).*

*Note: If the olive green plunger rod does not fill the window completely, you did not receive your full dose. Do not reuse the pen in this case. Call your healthcare provider immediately.*



*Figure H*



*Figure I*

## After the injection

### 13. Dispose of the pen (see *Figure J*).

- a. Put the used pen in an approved sharps disposal container immediately after use.
- b. If you do not have an approved sharps disposal container, you may use a household container that is:
  - made of a heavy-duty plastic;
  - able to close with a tight-fitting, puncture-resistant lid, without sharps being able to come out;
  - upright and stable during use;
  - leak-resistant; and
  - properly labelled to warn of hazardous waste inside the container.
- c. When your sharps disposal container is almost full, it should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

**Do not** recap the pen.

*Note: Keep the pen and sharps disposal container out of the sight and reach of children.*



*Figure J*