

YOUR INTRODUCTION TO  
**RUXIENCE<sup>®</sup>**  
(rituximab)



 **Ruxience<sup>®</sup>**  
rituximab

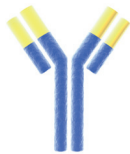
 **Pfizer**

## Getting started on my RUXIENCE treatment

This brochure has been designed to answer your questions and help you get the most out of your treatment.

It is important to read this brochure and keep it handy to help you understand your treatment. Also, it is important to be honest with your healthcare team about how you're doing on treatment. Speak to them when you have any questions or concerns about your treatment plan.

## What is RUXIENCE used for?



RUXIENCE is a cancer medicine that is used to stop cancer cell growth and ideally cause the death of cancer cells. It is a cancer medicine that must be prescribed by a doctor. It is used to treat patients with certain types of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

## How does RUXIENCE work?

Our bodies have a natural defence system against cancer cells. When cancer cells appear, our bodies respond by making special proteins called antibodies. Researchers studied this response and learned how to create antibodies outside the body that help with cancer treatment. These are called monoclonal antibodies. Monoclonal antibodies are made to target tumours in an effort to control the growth of cancer.

RUXIENCE belongs to a family of medicines called monoclonal antibodies. It is an antibody that targets the CD20 B-cell lymphocyte to stop its activity. RUXIENCE attaches to the CD20 marker that is located on the B-cell. After RUXIENCE attaches to the CD20 marker, it works to stop the growth of the cancer cells and may destroy them.

RUXIENCE is most active in patients who have B-cell type lymphoma.

## What formats are available for RUXIENCE?

RUXIENCE is available as a sterile liquid solution in single-use vials. It is available in two strengths:



- 100 mg/10 mL (10 mg/mL)



- 500 mg/50 mL (10 mg/mL)

## How will I receive RUXIENCE?

RUXIENCE is not taken by mouth. It is given with fluids through an intravenous line. An intravenous line, or I.V., is a thin, plastic tube placed in a vein in your hand or arm. When RUXIENCE is given intravenously, it is called an infusion.

The usual dose of RUXIENCE is based on your body surface area, which your doctor will calculate for you.

A healthcare professional in a healthcare facility will give you RUXIENCE as prescribed by your doctor.

Your first RUXIENCE infusion may take most of the day. Usually, the remaining infusions will take less time.



## Important safety information

### ***What should I know before I take RUXIENCE?***

Do not use RUXIENCE if you are allergic to rituximab or proteins of similar mouse or human origin, or any other ingredient in RUXIENCE, or if you have ever had a rare infection of the brain called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) you should not take RUXIENCE.

### ***To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take RUXIENCE.***

Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if:

- You ever had a bad reaction to rituximab or any of the nonmedicinal ingredients.
- You are allergic to other medications, food, or dyes.
- You have a history of heart attack or stroke.
- You are taking any other medicines (including those not prescribed by the doctor). If you are taking medication to reduce blood pressure. If you are planning to be immunized with a vaccine during or after the completion of your RUXIENCE therapy.
- You have a pre-existing lung disease as you may have a greater chance of breathing difficulties during your RUXIENCE treatment infusion.
- You have a history of hepatitis B, current hepatitis B or tuberculosis infection.
- You are pregnant or could become pregnant or are breastfeeding a child.

This information will help your doctor and you decide whether you should use RUXIENCE and what extra care may need to be taken while you are on the medication.

## Important safety information

### ***What are the possible side effects of RUXIENCE?***

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

The most common possible unwanted effects are infusion related events and happen to more than 30% of patients treated with RUXIENCE:

- Fever and chills
- Nausea, vomiting, fatigue (feeling tired or weak), headache, skin rash, redness of the skin, itchiness, wheezing or tightness in the chest, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sensation of the tongue or throat swelling, throat irritation, rhinitis (runny nose), temporary low blood pressure, flushing, dizziness on standing up, fast heartbeat, chest pain, and pain where the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is located

If these unwanted effects occur, it is most common within 30 minutes to 2 hours after starting the first infusion but may also occur after the infusion has finished. The symptoms are usually mild to moderate, which can be easily treated. Rarely, these reactions can be severe. These unwanted side effects are less common after the first treatment.

These unwanted effects can be prevented or managed by:

- Slowing or interrupting your infusion of RUXIENCE. The treatment can be restarted once the symptoms have resolved.
- Giving a fever reducer, such as **TYLENOL®**, an antihistamine, such as **BENADRYL®**, and a steroid, such as prednisone, which can be given for allergic reactions before each infusion of RUXIENCE. Sometimes additional medications are needed to be given to treat these unwanted effects.

Additionally:

- Your doctor may instruct you not to take your blood pressure medication 12 hours before and delay taking until after your infusion of RUXIENCE is complete. Please ask your doctor for specific instructions.
- Because some of the medications given with RUXIENCE may cause some dizziness or sleepiness, you should arrange for someone else to drive you home after each treatment.

There are also possible unwanted effects which could be serious but are less common:

- Chest pain, fast or irregular or uneven heartbeat.
- Decreased white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets in the blood.
- Infection and bleeding.
- Rapid destruction of cells sometimes leading to kidney, heart or breathing problems (Tumour Lysis Syndrome).
- Redness or blistering of the skin and the inside of the mouth.
- Recurrence of hepatitis B infection. Signs and symptoms of hepatitis B include mild fever, feeling of sickness, fatigue, loss of appetite, joint and/or abdominal pain and yellowing of whites of the eyes, skin and tongue.
- Increasing weakness on one side of the body, clumsiness or falls, trouble with thinking or memory, changes in mood and change in vision.

If you have been given RUXIENCE in combination with chemotherapy, the following additional unwanted effects may occur:

- Sudden loss of speech, weakness or numbness of part or all of one side of the body, loss of vision or blurred vision, unexplained dizziness and/or sudden falls.
- Herpes zoster also known as shingles. Symptoms of shingles include itching, tingling or severe burning pain with red patches that develop into blisters and are grouped in a cluster usually on the trunk of the body.

Please consult a doctor, nurse or pharmacist for possible unwanted effects that may be caused by CHOP, CVP or FC chemotherapy. For more information on possible side effects of RUXIENCE, please refer to the Package Insert provided by your healthcare team.

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



# Important safety information

## Serious warnings and precautions

Some side effects associated with RUXIENCE are severe and may be life-threatening. This drug should only be used by health professionals experienced in treating cancer in a facility where sudden and life-threatening reactions can be immediately treated.



### KIDNEY DAMAGE

Fatal allergic reactions and tumour lysis syndrome (TLS) causing fatal kidney damage have occurred.



### HEPATITIS

Repeat and sometimes fatal attacks of hepatitis have occurred. Recurrence of hepatitis B virus infection has occurred in patients who show evidence of the virus in a blood test. It is advised that all patients be tested for hepatitis B virus infection before starting treatment with RUXIENCE.



### BRAIN INFECTION

Serious, including fatal, infections can occur during or following treatment with RUXIENCE. A rare brain infection called JC virus causing progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) and death has been reported in patients with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL). It is hard to predict who will get PML, but it is more common in people with weakened immune systems.



### INFUSION REACTIONS

Serious infusion reactions can happen during your infusion or within 24 hours after your infusion of RUXIENCE.



### SKIN REACTIONS

Severe skin reactions such as Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) and Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) have been reported very rarely. Some cases have resulted in death.



### CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS

Serious and potentially fatal cardiovascular events have been reported rarely following treatment with RUXIENCE.



# Preparing for my next appointment

It's important to ask questions and let your healthcare team know if you have any concerns about your treatment. Use the space below to write down anything you would like to bring up with your team at any of your next visits.

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9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_



## My healthcare team contact information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_





## Support may help

If you think a support group may be helpful to you, ask your healthcare team about support groups in your area.

### ***Additional resources***

#### **Canadian Cancer Society**

The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) is a national, community-based organization that provides information and support services to patients and families affected by cancer.

The CCS' online community, [Cancerconnection.ca](http://Cancerconnection.ca), is a place where patients and families affected by cancer can share their experiences and build supportive relationships. No matter where you are, you can connect with others online and know that you are not alone.

Visit [www.cancerconnection.ca](http://www.cancerconnection.ca) or [www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca) or call 1-888-939-3333.

#### **The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada**

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada (LLSC) is a voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancers. LLSC provides free information and support services to patients and caregivers.

Visit [www.llscanada.org](http://www.llscanada.org) or call 1-800-955-4572.

#### **Lymphoma Canada**

Lymphoma Canada provides, at no cost and in both official languages, electronic and print materials on non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia, peer and caregiver support groups, educational forums and advocacy on behalf of patients. Lymphoma Canada also funds Canadian research.

Visit [www.lymphoma.ca](http://www.lymphoma.ca) or call 1-866-659-5556.

The suggested resources on this page do not imply an endorsement of or association with third-party organizations and are provided for information purposes only. Pfizer is not responsible for content of non-Pfizer sites.

## Notes

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## Notes

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# Pfizer Liaison

## Patient Support Program

Connecting you to resources that support your treatment access and complement the care provided by your healthcare team

- Reimbursement navigation and assessment
- Coordination of insurance benefits
- Financial assistance\*
- Treatment information



To enrol into Pfizer Liaison, contact us by phone, 1-844-616-6888 (toll-free); fax, 1-844-636-6888; or email, [pfizerliaison@bayshore.ca](mailto:pfizerliaison@bayshore.ca).



For more information, please refer to [mypfizer.ca](http://mypfizer.ca)

\* Financial assistance cannot be guaranteed.



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