

## **CATALYST - An early phase platform trial in (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19**

### **Which treatment could lessen the severity of a (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19 infection when compared with usual care in an NHS setting?**

#### **Personal Legal Representative Information Sheet**

##### **Invitation to take part**

CATALYST is a clinical trial being led by the University of Birmingham and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust in collaboration with the University of Oxford. You are being asked to assess the information contained within this information sheet on the patient's behalf, and make a decision based on the presumed wish of the patient on whether they would like to take part in the trial or not. The decision must be based on the patient's presumed will, and not based on your own views or objection.

Taking part is entirely voluntary, and choosing not to take part in this trial will not affect his/ her care in any way.

Before you decide whether the patient would want to take part, it is essential for you to understand why the research is being done and what his/her participation will involve. For this reason, the information contained within this personal legal representative information sheet is identical to that contained within the patient information sheet. The patient information sheet will be presented to the patient should he/ she clinically improve to the point of being able to assess the information to make an informed decision on whether to continue to take part in the trial or not.

Please take time to read the following information carefully.

##### **The purpose of the trial**

There is currently no vaccine and few effective treatments for COVID-19. As COVID-19 is a new illness, we are continually learning more about how it affects the human body. We know that the COVID-19 virus affects a number of different cells in the body, including a type of blood cell called a macrophage (immune cell), and that

it can cause the number of these cells to increase in the body. To fight an infection, immune cells produce proteins called cytokines and chemokines. These proteins can cause inflammation and at high levels can lead to damage in the tissues and organs in the body. Researchers believe this is why some people with COVID-19 infection become very ill.

Therapies we are testing:

A new, unlicensed drug called namilumab which has been tested in patients with arthritis and other inflammatory conditions. It may reduce inflammation in the body caused by the coronavirus. It is currently being given to patients with COVID-19 in a clinical trial in Italy. Namilumab is being provided free of charge by Izana Bioscience Limited (now part of Roivant Sciences) for use in this trial.

A drug called infliximab (Remsima) which is widely used to treat arthritis and other conditions may reduce inflammation in the body caused by the coronavirus. Infliximab is being provided free of charge by Celltrion Healthcare UK Limited for use in this trial.

Once this inflammation has been reduced, it may be possible that the immune system will adapt and fight off the virus more effectively.

Infliximab has not been tested in patients with COVID-19, and nalamumab has only been given to a limited number of patients in Italy. Therefore, the purpose of this trial is to assess if these drugs may be helpful in treating COVID-19. If in this trial any drug shows an initial sign of benefit in (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19, then it will be included in another larger-scale clinical trial being conducted throughout the UK, which is designed to compare treatments to find out which is the best at treating this infection.

This is a national trial and some hospitals running this trial are unable to offer patients all of the therapies available within this trial. The doctor will tell you which treatments are available at the hospital, and if applicable, which ones are not available.

### **Why has my relative/ friend been invited?**

Your relative/ friend has been invited to take part in this trial because they are aged 16 years or older, they have been admitted to hospital, and their doctor believes they have either a suspected or confirmed COVID -19

infection or have tested positive with a COVID-19 infection and they have higher levels of C-reactive protein in their blood than normal (this increases when there's an infection or inflammation in your body).

### What will happen to my relative/ friend if they take part?

- You will agree for your relative/ friend to take part in a clinical trial, and they will be actively monitored for 28 days and longer if necessary.
- This clinical trial has three treatment groups or 'arms': one for each of the treatments listed above, and the other arm is 'usual care'. Usual care means that they will receive the same treatment that everyone with a (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19 infection would get in the hospital whether you decide your relative/ friend takes part in the trial or not.
- The treatment they will receive is randomly allocated (chosen by chance) by a computer. Neither you nor your relative's/ friend's doctor will be able to select the treatment your relative/ friend receives. The research doctor or nurse will inform you of which treatment your relative/ friend will receive once they have entered them into the trial.
- If your relative/ friend is allocated the 'usual care' arm, they will receive the same medical care as all other patients being treated for a (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19 infection.
- If your relative/ friend is allocated to receive namilumab, they will get this in addition to the usual medical care received by patients who have this disease. Namilumab will be given to your relative/ friend through a drip in a vein, usually in their arm, on one occasion only.
- If your relative/ friend is allocated to receive infliximab, they will get this in addition to the usual medical care received by patients who have this disease. Infliximab will be given to your relative/ friend through a drip in a vein, usually in their arm, on one occasion only.
- Your relative/ friend will have routine blood samples while they are in the hospital as part of 'usual care.' If your relative/ friend is allocated to the namilumab or infliximab arm, they may have more blood samples taken regularly before and during treatment to check it is safe for them to receive treatment.
- If your relative/ friend are a female of childbearing potential, a pregnancy test will be performed as part of the screening tests.
- We would also like your permission to collect samples from your relative/ friend for research. The collection of these samples is optional. **This will only take place at certain hospitals.** The doctor will

tell you if research samples are being collected at your relative/ friend's hospital. This includes collecting samples of blood, and may include swabs from your relative/ friend's nose and throat, and if they are placed on a ventilator, samples of the secretions from the tube placed in their windpipe to help them breathe may be taken. Samples will be collected on up to three separate occasions. These samples will be used in laboratory studies to gain a better understanding of COVID-19 and how patients respond to treatment.

- While your relative/ friend is in hospital, their health and wellbeing will be monitored in accordance with usual care.

### **What are the potential benefits of taking part?**

This research has been designed to help develop a treatment for future patients with (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19 infection. It is important to understand that your relative/ friend may not directly benefit from taking part in this trial. The benefits for them as an individual are unknown.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

Your relative/ friend may have side effects from the treatment while taking part in the trial. This trial is testing a new way of treating (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19 infection.

All of the treatments have been given to humans before but not in (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19 infection, so there may be side effects that the doctors are not currently aware of, and these may be serious; because of this an independent committee will be monitoring the safety of the treatments in this trial regularly.

Everyone taking part in the trial will be monitored carefully for side effects. However, the doctors do not know all the side effects that may occur and we don't know how the drugs used in this trial will interact with the other drugs being used to treat (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19. Side effects may be mild or serious or may even be life-threatening. The doctors may give your relative/ friend medicines to help lessen side effects or the trial treatment may be postponed or stopped, depending on the side-effects they may experience.

Specific information is provided below for each of the trial treatments available in the trial is included below:

### **Namilumab**

Namilumab is a new drug that is being tested to treat diseases that cause inflammation such as rheumatoid arthritis.

The side effects that are known so far are:

- Low neutrophil count (a type of white blood cell)
- Minor symptoms such as runny nose and headache
- Tachycardia (a fast heart beat)\*

\* A short change in heart rhythm was seen with no apparent harm in one person receiving namilumab in another trial.

### **Infliximab**

Infliximab has been widely used for rheumatoid arthritis and other conditions for 20 years but it has some potential side effects. It has been used to treat patients with sepsis (serious infection) before on intensive care units and was demonstrated to be safe. The more common known side effects of infliximab when used to treat other conditions such as arthritis have been summarised below:

While your relative/ friend is receiving Infliximab:

- Common side effects (experienced by 1 in 100 people) include:
- Allergic reaction: this can be mild but is sometimes severe and may even be life-threatening. For this reason your relative/ friend will be very carefully monitored while receiving the infliximab infusion and for the period afterwards
- Feeling and being sick
- Headache
- Flu-like symptoms

### **During the days or weeks receiving Infliximab:**

Very common side effects (experienced by 1 in 10 people) include:

- Increased risk of infection. Infliximab can interfere with the body's ability to fight other infections caused by bacteria, fungi, other viruses such as hepatitis B, and tuberculosis. Your relative/ friend will be monitored carefully for signs of infection other than COVID-19 and be offered appropriate treatment if another infection is detected.

Common side effects (experienced by between 1 in 10 to 1 in 100 people) include:

- Abnormal liver function tests. Blood tests will be done frequently to check that your relative/ friend's liver is working properly.
- Some patients may experience worsening of psoriasis

## **Pregnancy and Breast Feeding**

There is very little known about the effects of namilumab on an unborn baby and there is some information available about the and infliximab on an unborn baby,. As a precaution, women who are breast feeding are excluded from the trial and women of child bearing potential must have a negative pregnancy test prior to starting the trial. It is important that if your relative/ friend receives a trial treatment that they use adequate birth control if they (or their partner if they are male) are of child bearing potential. For namilumab, male and female participants should use effective contraception for 18 weeks after the last dose of drug. For infliximab, male and female participants should use contraception for 26 weeks after the last dose of drug.

Effective contraception is a method that has a failure rate of less than 1% a year when used correctly and all the time. Examples of these include:

- combined (oestrogen and progesterone containing) hormonal contraception e.g. the “pill”, patch
- progesterone only contraception (includes the “mini-pill”, injection, implant)
- Intrauterine device (IUD) or hormone-releasing system (IUS)
- vasectomised partner
- sexual abstinence

Recent guidelines in rheumatology patients suggests infliximab can be given to female patients up until the 16th week of pregnancy. However, as this is the first time infliximab is being used in (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19 patients it is important your relative/ friend understands the contraception information above.

It is also important that any female patients do not breastfeed for 6 months after the last dose of namilumab or infliximab.

## **Is there any prohibited medication whilst my relative/ friend is on the trial?**

Your relative/ friend’s trial doctor will look at the medicines that they are already taking and let you/ your relative/ friend know whether they are able to still take them while they are taking part in the trial, or whether they would need to stop any of them.

## **What will happen if I don’t want my relative/ friend to carry on with the trial?**

You can withdraw your relative/ friend from the trial at any time without this having any effect on their medical care, however, all information and blood samples already collected from their time on the trial will still be used.

### **Will their taking part in this trial be kept confidential?**

All information collected about your relative/ friend for this trial will be subject to the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and Data Protection Act 2018 for Health and Care Research and will be kept strictly confidential.

The University of Birmingham is the Sponsor for this trial. The University of Birmingham will be using information from your relative/ friend's medical records in order to undertake this trial and will act as the data controller. This means that the University of Birmingham are responsible for looking after your relative/ friend's information and using it properly. The University of Birmingham and the NHS will keep identifiable information about them for at least ten years after the trial has finished; this allows the results of the trial to be verified if needed.

In the Trial Office, your relative/ friend will be identified by a unique trial number. In routine communication between the hospital and the Trial Office, your relative/ friend will only be identified by trial number, initials and date of birth. Information about your relative/ friend, their health and wellbeing may be provided to the Trial Office on paper or electronically. We would also like to collect your relative/ friend's NHS Number. This will allow researchers to collect information about their health and wellbeing from national records (e.g. Office for National Statistics, NHS Central Registries or other registries including those managed by NHS Digital) after the trial has ended. This will help us to determine the long-term impact of the trial treatment and COVID-19 on people's health.

By taking part in the trial, you will agree to allow research staff from the Trial Office to look at the trial records, including the medical records of your relative/ friend. It may be necessary to allow authorised personnel from government regulatory agencies (e.g. Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)), the Sponsor and/or NHS bodies to have access to information about your relative/ friend. This is to ensure that the trial is being conducted to the highest possible standards.

If the your relative/ friend is randomised to receive namlumab or infliximab, pseudo-anonymised data from the trial may also be provided to the pharmaceutical company who is providing the drug they are given for safety monitoring or licensing purposes, where applicable. This is for their and others' protection to track the safety of the trial treatment. This may involve sending data outside of the United Kingdom to a European country of the United States of America. Your relative/ friend's name and any identifying details (such as date of birth) will not be given to any of these parties.

We may be asked to share the trial information (data) we have collected with researchers running other studies so that they can perform analysis on the data to answer other important questions about COVID-19. These other researchers may be based in universities, NHS organisations companies involved in health research and maybe in this country or abroad. Non-identifiable summary information may also be shared with COVID-19 related UK government departments. Any such request is carefully considered by the trial researchers and will only be granted if the research is of high scientific standard and the necessary procedures and approvals are in place. The information will only be used for the purpose of health research and cannot be used to contact your relative/ friend or affect their care. It will not be used to make decisions about future services available to them, such as insurance.

All individuals who have access to your relative/ friend's information have a duty of confidentiality to them. Under no circumstances will they be identified in any way in any report, presentation or publication arising from this or any other research study.

You can withdraw your consent to our processing any more of your relative/ friend's data at any time. Your rights to access change or move your relative/ friend's information are limited, as we need to manage their information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw your relative/ friend from the trial, we will keep the information about them and the samples that we have already obtained. Under the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and Data Protection Act 2018, your relative/ friend has the right to know what information the University of Birmingham has recorded about them. If your relative/ friend wishes to view this information or find more about how we use this information, please contact Legal Services at Legal Services, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

### **What will happen to the samples they give?**

If you agree for your relative/ friend to take part in the optional research sample collection, the samples will be sent to laboratories based in the Universities of Birmingham or Oxford for storage and use in laboratory-based research for the trial. If you give your consent, any samples leftover at the end of analysis for the trial, may be kept for future ethically approved research. This laboratory-based research will include genetic analysis of these samples. This DNA and RNA analysis is for scientific purposes and is not expected to provide findings of any clinical significance for your relative/ friend or their relatives, so the results will not be fed back to your relative/ friend. It is difficult to predict precisely what scientific developments there may be so we cannot give precise details of what research might be done.

No one using your relative/ friend's samples for laboratory research will have access to their personal details. The samples sent to the University laboratories will be identified by your relative/ friend's unique trial number only. All samples relating to them will be stored in accordance with the Human Tissue Act 2004.

### **What will happen to the results of the research trial?**

At the end of the trial, the findings will be published in peer-reviewed medical and scientific journals. These publications will be available upon request from your relative/ friend's trial doctor. We will also make a lay summary of the result available on the trial websites.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

The trial is sponsored and being undertaken by the University of Birmingham in collaboration with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. The trial is being coordinated by the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU) within the University of Birmingham.

The trial is funded by an educational grant from UK Research and Innovation and drugs are being provided free of charge by the pharmaceutical companies.

### **Who has reviewed the trial?**

All research in the NHS is looked at by an independent group of people called a Research Ethics Committee to protect your relative/ friend's safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. This trial has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the East Midlands-Nottingham 2 Research Ethics Committee and by the NHS Health Research Authority. While the trial is ongoing the results will be reviewed regularly by an independent Data Monitoring Committee to ensure that it is appropriate to continue with the trial.

### **Expenses and Payments**

As your relative/ friend will already be an inpatient in the hospital during the trial they will not have to make any extra visits to participate in the trial and therefore will incur no additional expenses.

### **What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this trial, you should ask to speak with your relative/ friend's trial doctor who will do their best to answer your questions (see contact number at the end of this form). If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through your relative/ friend's hospital's Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS); they can be contacted by:

**Tel: 029 2074 4095**

**Email: [concerns@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:concerns@wales.nhs.uk)**

If your relative/ friend is harmed and this is due to someone's negligence then your relative/ friend may have grounds for legal action for compensation against the Sponsor of the trial (University of Birmingham) or the NHS Trust but they may have to pay their legal costs. NHS Trust Hospitals have a duty of care to all patients treated, whether or not the patient is taking part in a clinical trial, and the normal NHS complaints mechanisms will still be available to your relative/ friend (if appropriate).

### **Further information and contact details**

Trial Doctor: Matt Wise

Research Nurse: Critical Care Research Nurses

☎: 02920 743608

Emergency (24 hours) ☎: 02920 746520