

Resource

General medicine information

People diagnosed with RA will often be on multiple medications. In addition to disease control, there may be medications for symptom control or other health conditions. You may also need general information about how to report side effects or which vaccinations you can have.

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As well as the drugs prescribed by your rheumatologist to manage your RA and its symptoms, you may also be on medications for related complications. You may also need specific guidance on immunisations, because for many, due to the drugs you are taking, you will not be able to have the most live vaccines.

The number of drugs being prescribed could also be expensive to have to pay for on a regular basis if

you live in an area of the UK where prescriptions are not free, and you may need advice on how to reduce prescription costs.

Medicines in rheumatoid arthritis

We believe it is essential that people living with RA understand why certain medicines are used, when they are used and how they work to manage the condition.

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[Immunisation for people with rheumatoid arthritis](#)

[Immunisation is an important issue for people with rheumatoid arthritis \(RA\) as they experience infections more frequently than the general population, and these infections tend to be more serious.](#)



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[Live vaccines](#)

[As many with RA are unable to have live vaccines due to the medications they take, we have looked into the levels of risk for those with RA coming into contact with live vaccines, whether directly or through contact with people or pets who have had live vaccines.](#)



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[Keep taking the pills](#)

[Adherence is often easier said than done. In broadest terms it is defined as “the extent to which a patient’s behaviour follows medical advice”, and whether it relates to taking medication, following a diet, or adopting lifestyle changes, there’s no doubt that it can require psychological stamina.](#)



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[Photosensitivity](#)

[Photosensitivity causes a reaction to sunlight and can be caused by health conditions and medications. RA is not, by itself, a condition that would make you more sensitive to the sun, but a number of medications are considered photosensitive.](#)

[Article](#)

[Reporting side effects](#)

[The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority \(MHRA\) has launched an app for patients and healthcare professionals to report the side effects of medicines via the Yellow Card Scheme. Side effects can also be reported through the scheme online or by phone.](#)



[News, 16 Aug](#)

[Prescription Charges](#)

[Last week, the NHS announced plans to stop certain prescriptions that are considered to be either ineffective or low cost enough that patients can buy themselves.](#)



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Remission

Unlike some other conditions, remission in RA does not mean that your disease has completely gone. It is more like a dormant volcano, able to erupt again, but currently stable.

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