



# Oklahoma Arthritis Center

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## **INFUSION THERAPY INFORMATION**

Oklahoma Arthritis Center (OAC) offers intravenous (IV) infusions of biologic medications in a patient-friendly infusion center for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, lupus, and other autoimmune diseases. Our infusion team works closely with each infusion patient’s provider to ensure the best care possible.

Our infusion center offers a comfortable atmosphere with reclining chairs, wireless internet access, a television, and two quiet rooms. You may want to bring a book, laptop, or DVD player with headphones for additional comfort. You are welcome to bring a lunch or snack if needed. Out of respect for other patients, we ask that you not talk on your phone while in the infusion center.

Before your infusion, your provider will discuss infusion options with you, order blood tests, order a TB test, and/or order a chest x-ray if you have not had one recently. Your provider will then review all tests and x-rays and request one of our infusion billing coordinators to work with your insurance carrier to obtain approval for your infusion. Once your infusion is approved by your insurance carrier, an infusion billing coordinator will call you to explain your insurance benefits. If you choose to have the infusion, the infusion billing coordinator will arrange for a member of our team to call you to schedule your infusion appointment.

You can prepare for your infusion by increasing your decaffeinated fluid intake 2-3 days prior to the infusion. This will hydrate you and your veins to help with the IV start.

Upon checking in, you will receive paperwork to complete that will help the infusion team begin the assessment for your infusion. Please be sure to let your nurse know if you have an active infection or a surgery or invasive procedure scheduled, as this could be a contraindication for receiving your infusion. If you have any questions about your infusion for that day, please ask the infusion team member caring for you.

When you are ready to begin your infusion, a member of the infusion team will use a very small needle to start your IV. The length of time your infusion takes will vary based on the therapy your provider has ordered for you – see chart below for estimated times. The infusion team works closely with one another to ensure safe care during your time in the infusion center and is available if you need anything.

Some infusion therapies require pre-medication. The pre-medications may include, but are not limited to: Tylenol, Solu-Cortef, Benadryl, and Claritin.

Each patient responds differently to an infusion. Some patients feel tired and other patients say they feel fine and can do whatever they want after their infusion. If you experience issues after your infusion, please inform a member of the infusion team or your provider. There is a possibility that you may not feel like driving yourself home after your infusion. Therefore, you might consider having someone provide transportation for your infusion.

The infusion center is a controlled environment that treats numerous autoimmune diseases. The privacy and safety of patients receiving infusions are our primary goals. Only patients receiving infusions can remain in the infusion center.

Thank you for choosing our infusion center for your infusion needs. We look forward to caring for you. Should you have any questions regarding your infusion, please call 405-844-4978 and ask to speak with a member of the infusion team.

Infusion Therapy	Administration Time	Infusion Therapy	Administration Time
Actemra	2.0 hours	Prolia	0.5 hours
Benlysta	2.0 hours	Remicade	3.0 hours
Boniva	1.5 hours	Rituxan	6.0 hours
Cimzia	1.5 hours	Simponi Aria	1.5 hours
IVIG	5.0 hours	Venofer	2.0 hours
Orencia	1.5 hours		

*Note: It may take approximately two calendar weeks to receive approval from an insurance carrier for infusion therapy.*

*Note: Let us know if you are currently on a self-injectable biologic, as this may affect scheduling your infusion therapy.*