



### **Q: What are Immune Globulins?**

A: Immune globulins (IG) are a blood product made up of antibodies that have been separated from the liquid part of blood (plasma). Antibodies help protect the body from germs, such as viruses. Antibodies are made by the immune system, which is the part of the body that helps fight infection.

### **Q: What is IVIG and SCIG?**

A: IVIG is short for intravenous immune globulins. SCIG is short for subcutaneous immune globulins. Both IVIG and SCIG are safe and effective forms of IG administration; the difference is how they are given. IVIG is given directly into a vein and is done in a hospital setting. SCIG is given into the fatty tissue just under the skin. With training and support, SCIG can be self-administered at home.

### **Q: What is the Saskatchewan IG Stewardship Program?**

A: This program was created to supervise Saskatchewan's IG use and provide safe quality care to the residents of Saskatchewan.

### **Q: Why is this important?**

A: There might be a world-wide shortage of IG supply. IG is a critical treatment for people with certain health problems. We want to make sure IG is available for all patients who need it.

### **Q: Why will there be a shortage?**

A: IG was already in short supply before the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the pandemic is impacting how much IG is produced world-wide. The Saskatchewan IG Stewardship Program is putting measures into place so that it is available for those who need it.

### **Q: How will I continue to receive IG therapy?**

A: If you are currently receiving IG therapy, the process will stay the same until it is time for your renewal. Your doctor will contact you to set up an appointment. You will be re-weighed and a new dose might be prescribed. If your health allows, your doctor might talk to you about switching to SCIG.



**Q: What approach have other provinces taken?**

A: The Saskatchewan IG Stewardship Program is similar to programs in other provinces.

**Q: I am a patient currently receiving IG treatment. Should I be concerned about a shortage? Who should I talk to if I have concerns?**

A: We are working hard to make sure that patients continue to receive their IG treatment if there is a shortage. There is a chance that your dose might change. If you have concerns, please speak to your doctor.

**Q: Will my IG brand change?**

A: There is a chance that your IG brand might change. Your healthcare team will follow-up closely to make sure adverse reactions are not missed. If you have had a severe adverse reaction due to a brand change in the past, you will be kept on your current IG brand.

**Q: What happens if I don't get IG anymore?**

A: IG is used for certain health conditions. Your doctor will contact you if your health condition can be better controlled by another kind of treatment.

**Q: How can I help add to the supply of IG in Saskatchewan?**

A: IG supply depends on blood plasma donors. If your health allows, please consider donating with Canadian Blood Services (<https://www.blood.ca/en/plasma>) and encourage family/friends to do the same.