



### Subcutaneous immune globulin (SCIG):

- is a blood product made from plasma collected from human blood donors;
- contains special proteins, called antibodies, which can help fight infections;
- is injected under the skin (subcutaneously) with a tiny needle;
- can be easily infused at home, unlike intravenous (in the vein) immune globulin (IVIG), which is given in a hospital;
- is commonly used in patients with immunodeficiency.

### How is SCIG given?

- SCIG is injected using a tiny needle by the patient or caregiver into the fatty tissue just under the skin, usually on the abdomen or thighs.
- Before you take your SCIG home, your home infusion program or home care nurse will teach you on how to inject it. It will take several sessions to make sure you can perform the injections safely and comfortably.

### Tell your doctor if you:

- have a history of severe allergic reactions to immune globulin treatment;
- have any platelet disorder or other bleeding tendency;
- are or may be pregnant;
- have had recent vaccinations.

### Side Effects of SCIG

- You may have local redness, swelling, discomfort, and itching at the injection site that usually are mild and go away in 24 to 48 hours.
- Other side effects include headache, gastrointestinal issues, fever, nausea, sore throat, rash allergic reaction, increased cough, pain, and diarrhea.

### Benefits of SCIG

- An option for patients who get side effects from IVIG (nausea, headache, etc.), who have trouble with IV access, or who prefer to have more control of their treatment.
- Provides a more stable immunoglobulin (Ig) level because of frequent infusions at smaller dosages.
- Can be stored at room temperature, making it easy to continue treatment while travelling.

### Risks of SCIG

SCIG is considered one of the safer blood products with a low risk of spreading disease. Human donors are carefully tested before they can donate blood. When manufactured, SCIG is treated to kill the viruses that cause AIDS (HIV), Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.

Prior to beginning treatment, you must discuss the risks and benefits of SCIG with your doctor and complete a signed consent form to indicate that you understand what the treatment is for and the risks of potential adverse reactions with the treatment.