

Travelling overseas with subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) – medical/nurse coordinator considerations

More detailed information regarding “Supply of Blood and Blood Related Products for use by Australian Residents Temporarily Overseas” is available at the National Blood Authority (NBA) website:

<https://www.blood.gov.au/system/files/documents/overseas-use-factsheet.pdf>

Contact the Victorian Lifeblood Transfusion Nurses for assistance

03 9694 0201 or email vtatn@redcrossblood.org.au

1. Current authorisation for SCIg in BloodSTAR:

- Consider an infusion of IVIg prior to travel and upon return to avoid the need to take any product overseas – depending on length of travel and clinical condition
- The patient must have a current authorisation for SCIg in BloodSTAR
- The authorisation must be valid for the full duration of intended travel
- It is recommended that Patients receiving EVOGAM are transitioned to HIZENTRA prior to departure – the storage requirements for EVOGAM are very stringent and may be difficult to maintain whilst travelling

2. Documentation required:

Complete the below documents in full and email to the Lifeblood Transfusion Nurses:

- Copy of the patient's passport
- Copy of the patient's flight itinerary – (departure and return flight details are required)
- [Request for Approval of Supply of Blood or Blood Products for Use Overseas](#)
- [Australian Treating Clinician Form](#)
- All completed documents must be received by the Lifeblood Transfusion Nurses at least 4 weeks prior to departure date

3. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Export permit:

- The documentation provided to the Lifeblood will be forwarded to the TGA to obtain an Export permit for the product – this permit is required for the patient to travel with SCIg

4. Patient letter - prepare a letter for the patient including:

- Treating doctors details
- Diagnosis
- Reason SCIg required
- Dose and product

5. Ordering the product:

- You will need to inform the dispenser that a special order is required:
 - The amount of product required for the journey will need to be requested via BloodNet
 - “Please pack for international travel” must be annotated in the comments field.It is advised that the product is collected as close to departure date as feasible – either the morning of travel (if time permitting), or the business day prior to departure
- The product will be packed for travel, the shipper will be sealed and have a copy of the TGA Export permit attached to the outer
- More than 1 shipper may be required depending on the amount of product required

The shipper MUST NOT be opened – if it appears to have been opened the airline may not permit the patient to board the aircraft with the product.

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- 1. Confirm travel details:**
 - Duration of travel
 - Number of doses required for time away
- 2. Only HIZENTRA can be taken overseas** – if you are on EVOGAM you will need to change to Hizentra prior to travel, to ensure no adverse reactions/tolerance. The treating doctor will need to request a change of product in BloodSTAR. (www.blood.gov.au)
- 3. Consumables required for duration of travel** – ensure you have enough stock prior to travel date
- 4. Letter to take with you from your treating doctor including:**
 - Treating Doctors' details
 - Diagnosis
 - Reason SCiG required
 - Dose and product
- 5. Contact the airline to ensure the shipper box can be taken as carry-on luggage and if there are any other conditions.** (See below for shipper box dimensions)
- 6. Check with Customs/Embassy of your destination to see if an Import Permit is required** – The Blood Service is not able to assist with the acquisition of Import Permits.
- 7. Make a plan with your treating specialist in case you become unwell overseas** – Register with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) via travel tab on website.
<http://dfat.gov.au/pages/default.aspx>
- 8. Arrange collection of SCiG prior to travel.** Generally day of departure or 1 day prior, whichever is the most feasible based on time of flight, vicinity to hospital etc.
- 9. IMPORTANT – DO NOT OPEN** or tamper with the shipper box – it will be packaged for flight and the airline may refuse to accept if any evidence of shipper being opened or tampered with. An Export permit will be attached to the top of the shipper box for easy customs access.

The shipper MUST NOT be opened – if it appears to have been opened the airline may not permit the patient to board the aircraft with the product.

Example of the shippers the product is packed in:

- Large: 26 x 35 x 38cm
- Small: 24 x 19 x 25cm

The size and number of shippers required will depend on the amount of product requested.

Each shipper is sealed with a copy of the TGA Export permit attached to the outside.

