



Get on with life,  
we'll see you  
in 6 months.

The intent of this patient booklet, developed by Roche Products (New Zealand) Ltd, is to support and improve outcomes for patients prescribed OCREVUS IV for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

For more information visit [getonwithlife.co.nz](http://getonwithlife.co.nz)

**OCREVUS<sup>®</sup>**  
ocrelizumab



*Living your life your way with MS*



If you're one of the 5000 New Zealanders affected by MS, ask your doctor or nurse if OCREVUS IV is right for you.

[getonwithlife.co.nz](http://getonwithlife.co.nz)

# C ontents

What is Multiple Sclerosis (MS)? 2

What are the symptoms of MS? 5

What is OCREVUS and how does it work? 9

Who is OCREVUS for?  
- Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS) 13

Who is OCREVUS for?  
- Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PPMS) 15

How is OCREVUS given? 19

Important information on OCREVUS 21

Contact details and next appointment 24

Glossary 25

All words underlined like this are explained in the glossary at the back of this booklet on page 25

Models have been used within this communication piece for illustration purposes only.



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What is Multiple Sclerosis?

1

## What is Multiple Sclerosis?

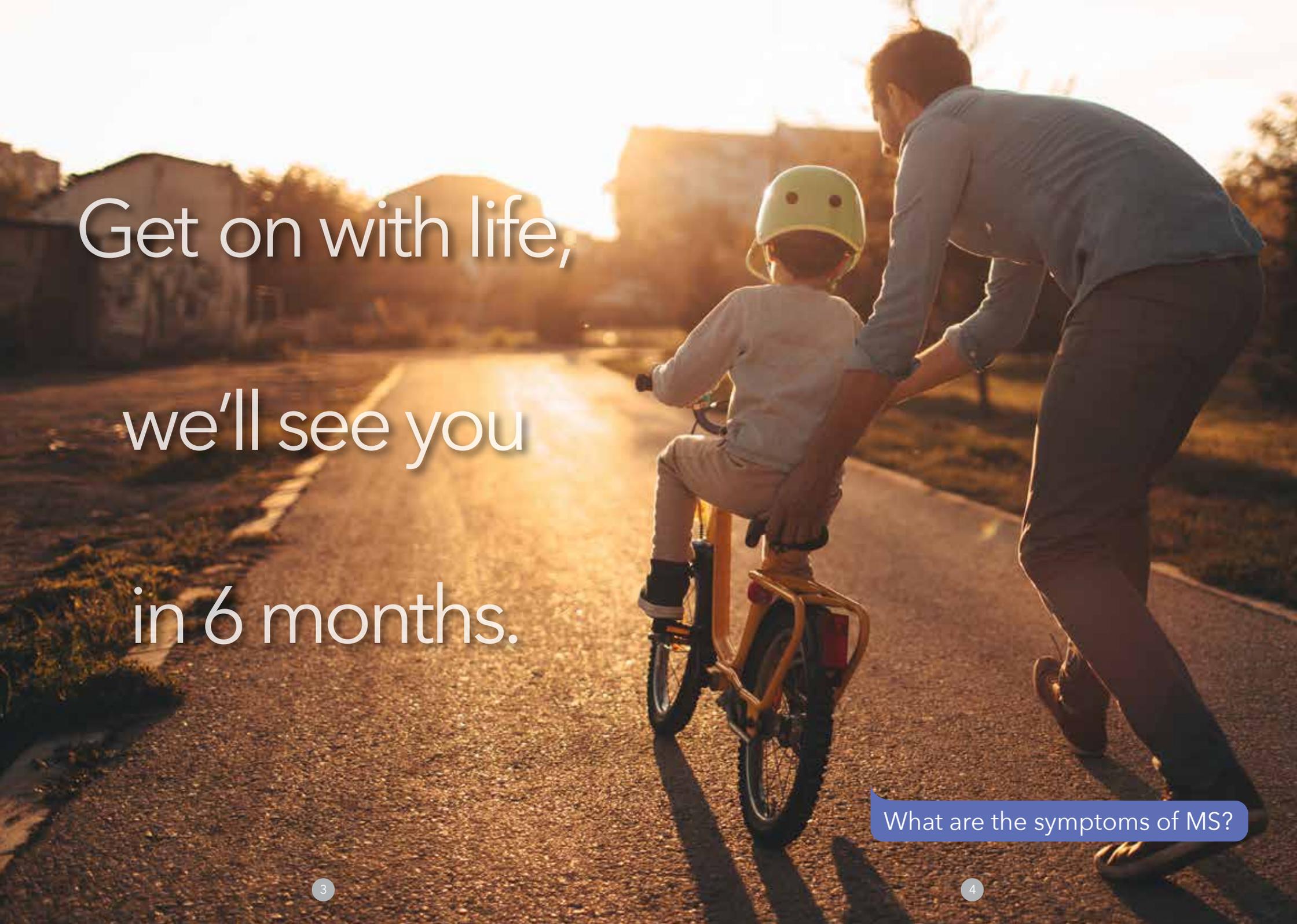
Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease that affects the central nervous system (CNS).

The CNS contains neurons, which send signals to the body so we can talk, eat, move and generally perform our day-to-day activities. Neurons are wrapped in a protein called myelin, which usually keeps them protected and insulated.

When a person has MS, the immune system mistakenly attacks their myelin. This causes inflammation and damage to the nerve cells, and stops the nervous system from working properly.

Because the CNS controls vital physical functions - such as balance, memory and coordination - this results in the symptoms of MS.

2

A man in a light blue shirt and dark pants is helping a young child on a yellow bicycle. The child is wearing a light green helmet and a white long-sleeved shirt. They are on a paved road at sunset, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The man is leaning forward, supporting the child from behind. The background shows houses and trees in silhouette.

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What are the symptoms of MS?

## What are the symptoms of MS?

MS symptoms vary from person to person. Some people may show signs and symptoms of the disease, while other people with MS show none.

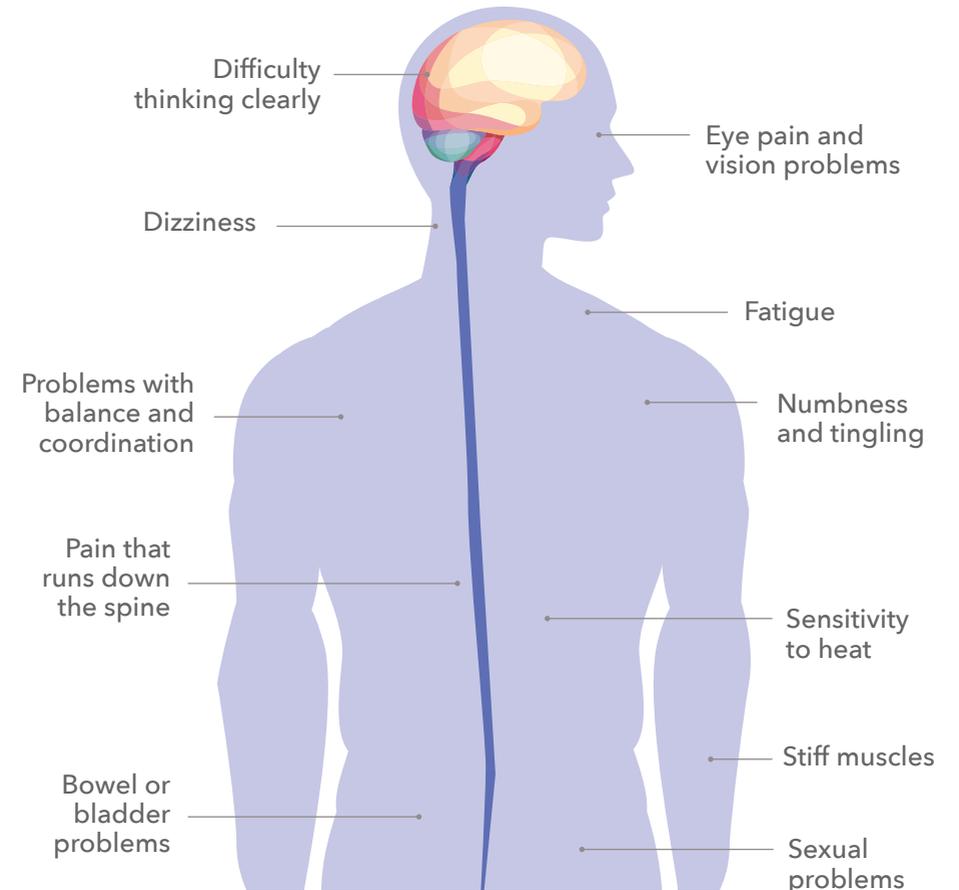
Since MS can affect any area of the brain, optic nerve or spinal cord, a wide range of symptoms can arise. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is useful in detecting damage in these areas, and can help identify MS even in the absence of symptoms.



Know that over time ...

... technology and the growing knowledge of MS can lead to promising new treatments that can potentially prevent symptoms of MS.

## Potential symptoms to look out for





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What is OCREVUS?

## What is OCREVUS?

OCREVUS is a prescription medication that works by targeting certain cells in the immune system.

By removing these cells, OCREVUS may reduce inflammation and damage within the nervous system caused by MS.

This lowers the chance of a relapse, and slows the worsening of the disease.

Globally there are now over 11 years of data (clinical trials and post-trial data) and over 420,000 people with MS who have started treatment with OCREVUS.

### Neuron

The basic nerve cell of the nervous system.

### B-Cell

A type of lymphocyte (white blood cell) made in the bone marrow that makes antibodies.

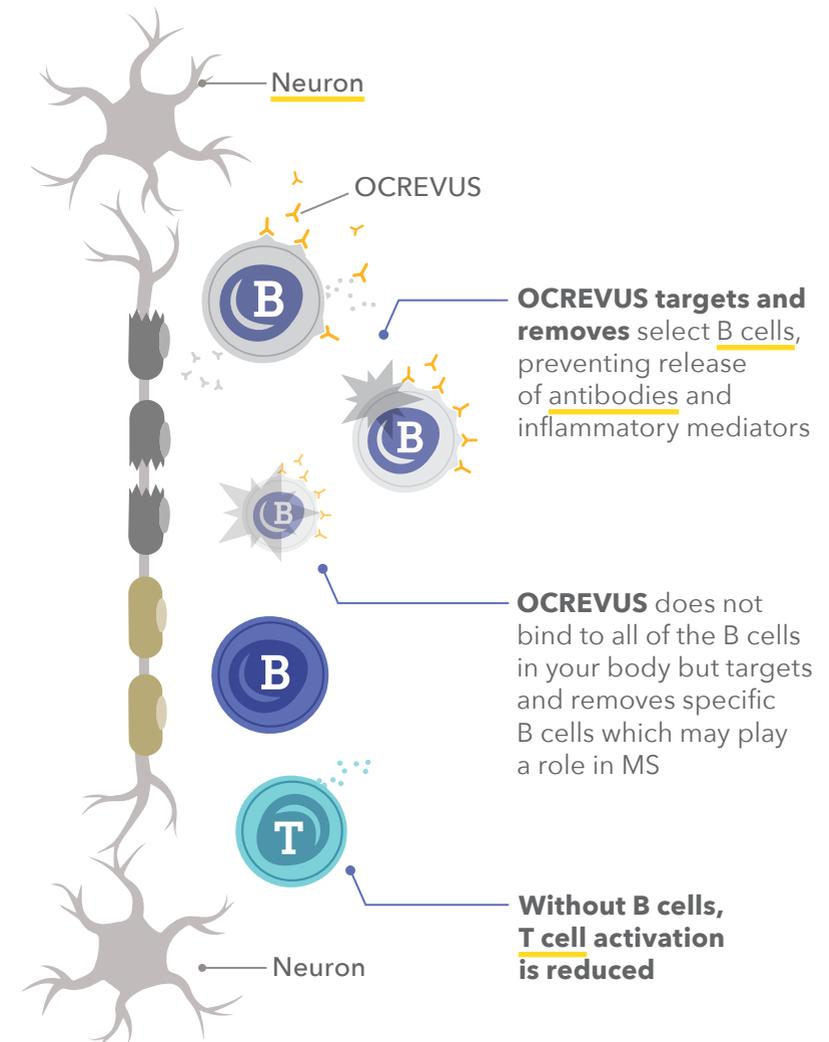
### Antibody

A protein produced by certain cells of the immune system. It is produced in response to bacteria, viruses, and other types of foreign antigens.

### T-Cell

A lymphocyte (white blood cell) that develops in the bone marrow, matures in the thymus, and works as part of the immune system in the body.

## How does OCREVUS work?



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Who is OCREVUS for?

## Who is OCREVUS for?

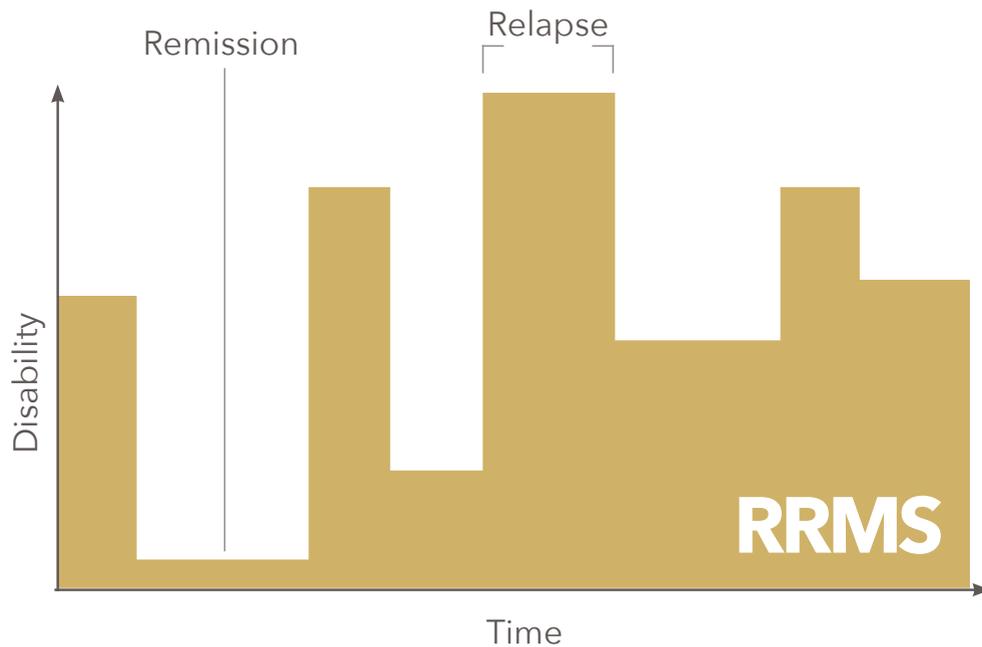
### OCREVUS helps with signs and symptoms of Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS)

#### Relapses

When a relapse occurs, symptoms may be experienced suddenly, within a few hours, or slowly develop over a few days. As MS progresses, the damage caused by relapses may grow and could lead to permanent disability.

#### Remission

In people with RRMS there are periods of full recovery (in which symptoms disappear completely) or partial recovery (in which some symptoms remain).



13

OCREVUS decreases the number of relapses, and slows the worsening of RRMS compared to beta-interferon (another medication for MS).

OCREVUS only needs to be given every six months after the first dose, leaving you to get on with life in between treatments

OCREVUS has shown promising results so far in reducing the frequency of MS relapses, and slowing the overall progression of the disease.

#### Compared with beta-interferon, OCREVUS helps to:

**Reduce the number of relapses**  
by about half



**Suppress progression** and reduce the likelihood of worsening of disability by 40%  
Increases the chance of a patient having **no evidence of disease** activity by 75%

If you would like more information regarding the use of OCREVUS for the treatment of MS then please contact the Roche Medical Information team on **0800 276243** or **auckland.medinfonz@roche.com**

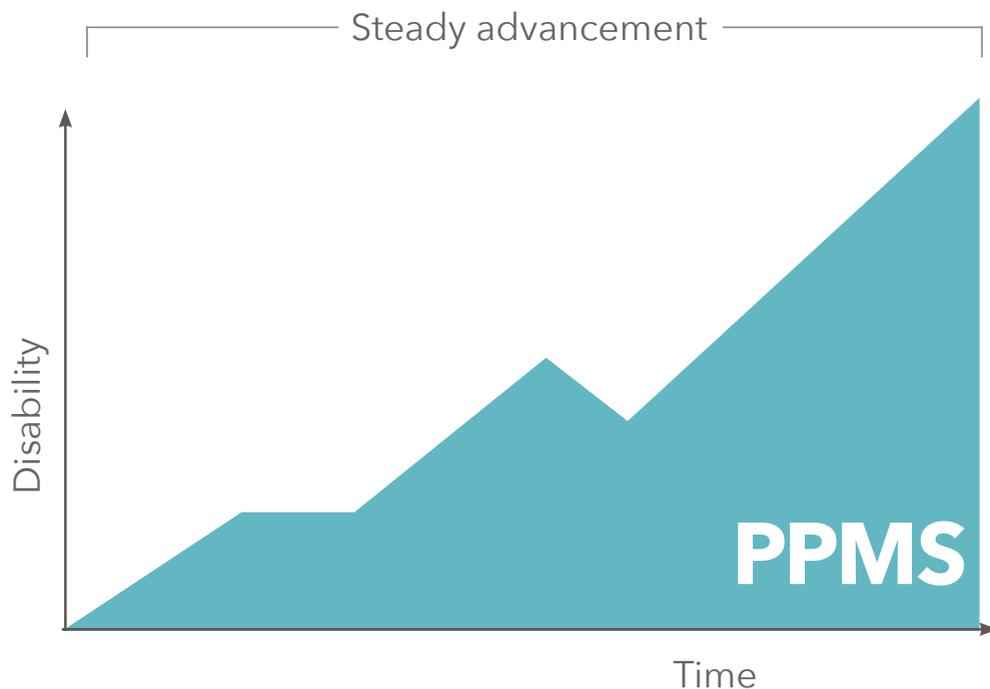
14

## Who is OCREVUS for?

### OCREVUS helps with signs and symptoms of Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PPMS)

#### PPMS advances more steadily than RRMS

Symptoms of PPMS continually get worse from the start of the disease. However, while not typical, some people with PPMS may occasionally experience relapses.



OCREVUS slows the worsening of PPMS.

OCREVUS only needs to be given every six months after the first dose, leaving you to get on with life in between treatments

OCREVUS has shown promising results so far in slowing the overall progression of the disease.

Compared with placebo,  
OCREVUS helps to:

**Reduce the progression of disability** by about one quarter



**Slow down progression** of the disease and reduce deterioration in walking speed

If you would like more information regarding the use of OCREVUS for the treatment of MS then please contact the Roche Medical Information team on **0800 276243** or **auckland.medinfonz@roche.com**



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How is OCREVUS given?

## How is OCREVUS IV given?

OCREVUS IV is administered by intravenous (IV) infusion every six months.

Before you receive OCREVUS, you will also be given other medicines to help reduce the severity of possible infusion-related reactions (IRR).

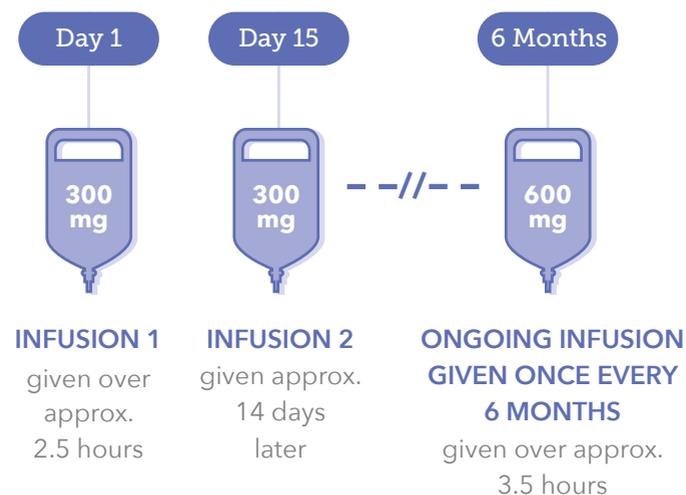
You'll need to visit the hospital to receive OCREVUS IV, and it will be given to you intravenously (through a needle in your arm).

You'll be closely monitored during each infusion, and your doctor or nurse may adjust the infusion rate depending on how well your body is tolerating it.



## You will receive OCREVUS every 6 months

- The first dose of OCREVUS IV is given as two separate infusions.
  - **Day 1: 300mg**
  - **Day 15: 300mg**



- After the first dose, OCREVUS is given every 6 months. This is the dosing that has been determined to be both effective and well tolerated in clinical trials.

OCREVUS is also available as a subcutaneous injection, a 10 minute injection under the skin. Ask your healthcare provider if OCREVUS SC (subcutaneous) is right for you.



## Important information on OCREVUS

There are some side effects and risks to be aware of when taking OCREVUS. Your doctor will consider the best time for you to begin treatment with OCREVUS.

### Do not use OCREVUS if:

- You have had an allergic reaction to OCREVUS or any of its ingredients.  
*Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, rash and/or itching or hives on the skin.*

Before you receive OCREVUS, tell your doctor if:

- You have an infection, or a history of recurring or long-term infection (such as hepatitis B).  
*If you are taking or have taken medicines which affect your immune system, you may have an increased risk of infections.*
- You are taking or have previously taken medicines which may affect your immune system, such as medicines for MS.
- You or your child intend to have or have had immunisation with any vaccine.
- You are allergic to any other medicines or any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes.
- You are pregnant, or intend to become pregnant.  
*Avoid the use of OCREVUS during the second and third trimester of pregnancy, unless advised otherwise by your doctor.*
- You are breastfeeding, or plan to breastfeed.  
*Avoid breastfeeding for the first few days after birth while you are using OCREVUS.*

### Possible side effects:

The most common side effects of OCREVUS IV are infusion-related reactions (IRR). IRRs can be serious, so you'll be carefully monitored throughout your infusion and for at least one hour afterwards.

However, because IRRs can happen for up to 24 hours after a dose of OCREVUS, it is important that you tell your doctor or go to the Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- itchy skin, rash, hives, redness of the skin
- throat irritation or pain
- shortness of breath
- swelling of the throat, face, lips, tongue, or other parts of the body
- redness on your face (flushing)
- low blood pressure
- fever
- fatigue
- nausea
- headache
- fast heart beat

OCREVUS increases your risk of respiratory, skin, and herpes-related infections. You should tell your doctor if you have any signs of an infection—such as fever, chills, a cough that doesn't go away, or herpes symptoms (cold sores, shingles, genital sores).

Rare cases of liver injury have been reported after treatment with OCREVUS. Tell your doctor straight away if you notice any signs of liver problems such as:

- new or worsening fatigue
- loss of appetite
- nausea
- vomiting
- pain in the right part of your abdomen
- dark-colored urine
- yellowing of your skin or eyes

There have been reports of a rare, serious brain infection called PML (progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy) in patients receiving medicines for MS. PML can occur in patients taking OCREVUS (both IV and SC formulations) and is mostly associated with risk factors, such as age and pre-existing use of immunosuppressants. PML can cause severe disability or even death. Symptoms of PML can be similar to those of MS. Tell your partner or carer about your OCREVUS treatment. They might notice symptoms that you do not, such as changes in movement or behaviour, which your doctor may need to investigate.



What if I miss a dose?

- Make another appointment as soon as possible to receive your infusion.
- Do not wait until the next planned dose.

## Your appointments

### **INFUSION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **INFUSION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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### **INFUSION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Nurses name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Infusion location** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Glossary

## Antibody

A protein produced by certain cells of the immune system. It is produced in response to bacteria, viruses, and other types of foreign antigens.

## B-Cell

A type of lymphocyte (white blood cell) made in the bone marrow that makes antibodies.

## Beta-interferon

Is an anti-inflammatory medication that acts to reduce the inflammation and the immune response from attacking the body's own myelin.

## Central Nervous System (CNS)

The part of the nervous system that includes the brain, optic (visual) nerves, and spinal cord.

## Immune system

A complex network of glands, tissues, circulating cells, and processes that protect the body by identifying abnormal or foreign substances and neutralising them.

## Infusion-Related Reactions (IRR)

Some possible symptoms are itchiness, rash, throat irritation, flushing, and headache.

## Intravenous (IV) infusion

A method used to deliver some types of medication and it involves inserting the medication into the vein via a drip.

## Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

A tool that uses magnetic energy and radio waves to take pictures of the inside of your body, including areas like your brain or spine.

## Myelin

The protective coating that insulates nerves allowing nerve signals to travel quickly.

## Neuron

The basic nerve cell of the nervous system.

## Placebo

A substance with no active therapeutic effect.

## PML

Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy is a rare and serious brain infection.

## Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PPMS)

Primary progressive multiple sclerosis is a less common form of multiple sclerosis. People with PPMS usually have progressive worsening of neurologic function or accumulation of disability from the start.

## Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS)

The most common form of multiple sclerosis where there are clear attacks of new or worsening symptoms, also known as relapses. These relapses are followed by periods of partial or complete recovery, called remission.

## Subcutaneous (SC)

Delivery of medicine by injection, under the skin in the stomach area.

## T-Cell

A lymphocyte (white blood cell) that develops in the bone marrow, matures in the thymus, and works as part of the immune system in the body.

# Notes

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For more information  
[getonwithlife.co.nz](http://getonwithlife.co.nz)

# Notes

**Ocrevus® IV** (ocrelizumab) 300mg vial, and **Ocrevus® SC** (ocrelizumab 920 mg/23 mL solution for subcutaneous injection) are **Prescription Medicines** used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (RMS) and primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS).

**Ask your doctor if Ocrevus is right for you.**

**Ocrevus IV when given as an infusion into the vein and Ocrevus SC when given as an injection under the skin, are funded medicines for patients who meet defined criteria.**

**Ask your health professional about the cost of the medicine and other fees that may apply.**

Use only as directed. If symptoms continue or you have side effects, see your healthcare professional. For more information about Ocrevus:

- talk to your health professional; or
- visit [medsafe.govt.nz](http://medsafe.govt.nz) for Ocrevus Consumer Medicine Information; or
- visit [getonwithlife.co.nz](http://getonwithlife.co.nz) or call Roche on 0800 276 243.

**Ocrevus has risks and benefits.**

**Possible common side effects include: *Infusion-related reactions and injections reactions:*** symptoms can include itchiness, rash, hives or redness of the skin; throat irritation or pain; shortness of breath; swelling of the throat, face, lips, tongue, or other parts of the body; reactions in the area where the injection is given (Ocrevus SC only); redness on your face (flushing); low blood pressure; fever; fatigue; nausea; headache; fast heart beat ***Infections:*** viral infections (influenza); respiratory tract infections (runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, cough, fever, fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath); inflammation or infection of the sinuses - sinusitis (feeling of pressure or pain in the cheeks and forehead); inflammation or infection of the lung - bronchitis (cough, chest pain, fever); build-up of mucus in the nose and throat; infection of the stomach and bowel - gastroenteritis (nausea, vomiting, fever); eye inflammation or infection - conjunctivitis (itchy, red or sore eyes); or skin infection - cellulitis (rash, itching or hives on the skin).

**Do not use Ocrevus if:** you have had an allergic reaction to Ocrevus or any of the ingredients.

**Tell your doctor if:** have any signs and symptoms of infection, or a history of a recurring or long-term infection such as hepatitis B; you are taking or have taken medicines which affect your immune system; you or your child intend to have or have had immunisation with any vaccine; you are allergic to any other medicines or any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes; have any other medical conditions; you take any medicines for any other condition (including those for MS, or to treat other conditions and medicines that lower blood pressure); you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop; you have any new medical conditions or plan to take any new medicines for any other condition; you have signs and symptoms that may indicate a liver problem **Pregnancy:** tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. You should avoid using Ocrevus during the second and third trimester of pregnancy, unless advised otherwise by your doctor. **Breastfeeding:** Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. You should avoid breastfeeding for the first few days after birth while you are using Ocrevus

**Tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Centre if you notice any of the following: *Infusion-related reactions, injections reactions, or allergic reactions:*** symptoms can include itchy skin, rash, hives or redness of the skin; throat irritation or pain; shortness of breath; swelling of the throat, face, lips, tongue, or other parts of the body; reactions in the area where the injection is given (Ocrevus SC only); redness on your face (flushing); low blood pressure; fever; fatigue; nausea; headache; fast heart beat ***Infections:*** symptoms such as fever or chills; cough that does not go away; herpes (such as cold sore, shingles and genital sores) ***Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML):*** think your multiple sclerosis is getting worse or if you or your partner or caregiver notice any new or unusual symptoms such as changes in movement or behaviour. There have been very rare reports of serious brain infection, called PML in patients receiving medicines for MS, which can cause severe disability or be life-threatening. Symptoms of PML can be similar to those of MS. ***Liver problems:*** symptoms such as new or worsening fatigue; loss of appetite; nausea; vomiting; pain in the right part of your abdomen; dark-coloured urine; yellowing of your skin or eyes

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Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited  
PO Box 109113, Newmarket, Auckland 1149  
Ph: 0800 656 464 [www.roche.co.nz](http://www.roche.co.nz)

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