

How Do My Infusions Help Me When I Have a Lung Infection or Exacerbation?

- ✓ The primary goal of augmentation therapy is to increase the level of alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) in your lungs.
- ✓ AAT protects your lungs, especially when you have a lung infection (pneumonia) or exacerbation (flare) of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchiectasis.
- ✓ When you have a lung infection, your body's white blood cells release a substance that fights infection (neutrophil elastase), but also can damage your lungs.
- ✓ AAT protects your lungs from this damage.

Should I Get My Infusion When I am Sick?

- ✓ YES!
- ✓ The most severe lung injury happens when you have a lung infection.
- ✓ Getting an infusion when you have a lung infection helps protect your lungs from the damage that occurs during the infection.

Are there Risks to Getting My Infusion When I Am Sick?

- ✓ It is safe to get your infusion of augmentation therapy when you are sick.
- ✓ There is no evidence that there are higher rates of side effects of augmentation therapy when people are sick.

How Can I Get My Infusion When I Am Sick?

Below are some ideas to help you problem-solve how to get your infusions when you are sick:

- ✓ If you self-administer your infusion
 - Simply continue infusing as prescribed
 - If you need more help than usual, ask for additional help from a family member or friend
- ✓ If a nurse comes to your home to administer your infusions
 - Work with your usual nurse to develop a plan for continuing to get infusions when you are sick
 - Wear a mask to prevent the nurse from getting sick
- ✓ If you go to a medical facility/infusion center to get your infusions
 - Have a family member, friend, or ride-sharing service drive you to the facility, if needed
 - Wear a mask while at the facility
- ✓ If you are hospitalized when you are scheduled for an infusion
 - Inform the hospital that you routinely get augmentation therapy infusions
 - Explain the importance of ensuring that you do not have an interruption in augmentation therapy
 - Offer to fill out any paperwork necessary that would allow the hospital to administer your own augmentation therapy drug without liability to the hospital. Sometimes hospital pharmacies need to develop a process including a waiver of liability that you may need to sign to get your own IV therapy in the hospitals. Most hospitals have these processes in place for Alpha-1 patients.
 - If you still have problems getting your augmentation therapy while you are in the hospital
 - Show this information sheet to your own physician or the physician working with you in the hospital
 - AlphaNet's Medical Directors would be happy to speak with those caring for you if your healthcare providers have any concerns or questions
- ✓ If you missed a dose when you were hospitalized
 - Return to your normal infusion schedule as soon as possible
 - It is not recommended that you get a double dose to make up for the dose you missed