

Primary immunodeficiency diseases (PID) with antibody deficiency

Condition for which Ig has an established therapeutic role.

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| Specific Conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)Combined immunodeficiency generally less profound than SCID (e.g. thymoma)Combined immunodeficiency with associated or syndromal features (e.g. Wiskott Aldrich syndrome; ataxia telangiectasia)Severe reduction in all Ig isotypes with decreased or absent B-cells (e.g. XLA def)Severe reduction in at least two Ig isotypes with low/normal B-cells (e.g. CVID)Severe reduction in serum IgG and IgA with normal/elevated IgM (e.g. CD40L def)Transient hypogammaglobulinaemia of infancyLymphoproliferative syndromes (e.g. XLP1, XLP2, CD27 def)Possible Common variable immune deficiency (CVID) - below normal serum IgG but normal serum IgA level |
| Indication for Ig Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Replacement therapy in common variable immune deficiency (CVID) – ESID diagnostic criteria metReplacement therapy in possible common variable immune deficiency (CVID) – (below normal serum IgG but normal serum IgA level)Replacement therapy in transient hypogammaglobulinaemia of infancy (children aged less than 4 years)Replacement therapy in recognised primary immunodeficiencies for which immunoglobulin replacement is universally indicated (e.g. SCID, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome, etc.) |
| Level of Evidence | Evidence of probable benefit – more research needed (Category 2a) |
| Description and Diagnostic Criteria | <p>More than 280 primary immunodeficiency diseases (PIDs) have been identified. Many of these cause antibody deficiency. In some cases, antibody deficiency is associated with B-cell deficiency (e.g. X-linked agammaglobulinaemia), while in others, B-cells are present. Antibody deficiency can be the only manifestation of PID, or there can be other defects as well (e.g. T-cell deficiency, autoimmunity). Not all PIDs cause antibody defects and, therefore, immunoglobulin replacement is not always indicated.</p> <p>Recognised primary immunodeficiencies for which immunoglobulin replacement is universally indicated are: X-linked agamma/hypogammaglobulinaemia, severe combined immunodeficiency, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome, X-linked lymphoproliferative syndrome, hyper IgM syndrome and severe T-cell immunodeficiency.</p> <p>The European Society for Immunodeficiency Diseases (ESID) diagnostic criteria for PID have been used as a guide in the development of the qualifying criteria for Ig therapy in Australia. It is acknowledged that a low IgG alone is not a sufficient indication for immunoglobulin replacement.</p> <p>Genetic diagnoses are continually being updated as described in the classification system for the International Union of Immunology Societies (IUIS). It is recognised that genetic diagnoses are not always possible.</p> |
| Justification for Evidence Category | The Biotext (2004) review reported level 2a evidence for the use of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) in the treatment of common variable immunodeficiency and primary hypogammaglobulinaemia. |
| Diagnosis Requirements | A diagnosis must be made by an Immunologist. |
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Note: If less than two years the request must be under the indication **Transient hypogammaglobulinaemia of infancy (children aged less than four years)**

- The patient is older than two years of age

AND

Blood samples for IgG and IgA testing should be taken on two occasions, at least one hour apart and at least one sample taken when the patient does not have an infection

- Evidence of a marked decrease of IgG and a marked decrease of IgA with or without low IgM levels

AND

- Documented failure of serum antibody response after vaccination with conjugated or unconjugated pneumococcal vaccine or following protein vaccine challenge

OR

- The patient's serum IgG is less than 2 g/L and a delay to providing Ig replacement (e.g. following an invasive bacterial infection) would present significant risk

OR

- The patient has absent haemagglutinins (if not blood group AB)

OR

- The patient has low switched memory B-cells (less than 70 percent of age-related normal value)

AND

- The patient has demonstrated an increased susceptibility to infection

OR

- The patient has autoimmune manifestations, granulomatous disease, unexplained polyclonal lymphoproliferation or an affected family member with antibody deficiency

Initial review by an immunologist is required at six months and annually thereafter. Documentation of clinical effectiveness is necessary for continuation of Ig therapy.

The review criteria for primary immunodeficiency diseases are to ensure adequate replacement of antibody deficiency and to demonstrate clinical benefit from treatment.

Replacement therapy in possible common variable immune deficiency (CVID) – (below normal serum IgG but normal serum IgA level)

A low IgG (normal IgA with or without a low IgM) alone is not a sufficient indication for immunoglobulin replacement therapy. Many patients will be well despite the finding of a serum IgG below the normal range for age.

- The patient is older than four years of age

AND

Blood samples for IgG testing should be taken on two occasions, at least one hour apart and at least one sample taken when the patient does not have an infection

- Evidence of a marked decrease of IgG with normal IgA (with or without low IgM) levels

AND

- Documented failure of serum antibody response after vaccination with conjugated or unconjugated pneumococcal vaccine or following protein vaccine challenge

OR

- The patient's serum IgG less than 2 g/L and a delay to providing Ig replacement (e.g. following an invasive bacterial infection) would present significant risk

OR

- The patient has absent haemagglutinins (if not blood group AB)

OR

- The patient has low switched memory B-cells (less than 70 percent of age-related normal value)

AND

- The patient has demonstrated an increased susceptibility to infection

OR

- The patient has autoimmune manifestations, granulomatous disease, unexplained polyclonal lymphoproliferation or an affected family member with antibody deficiency

Initial review is required by an Immunologist at six months and ongoing reviews at least annually to assess clinical benefit. Documentation of clinical effectiveness is necessary for continuation of Ig therapy.

Cessation of Ig therapy should be considered at least after each 12 months of treatment. If serum IgM and IgA levels are trending upwards and near normal, this may suggest recovery of the immune system and a trial might be considered if the patient is well. Once the patient has normal IgA and IgM levels, the IgG is also likely to be normal and a trial off therapy may be undertaken.

Ig therapy should be extended as required to enable cessation of therapy in September/October, with repeat clinical and/or immunological evaluation before re-commencement of therapy.

This should particularly be considered in patients who do not have active bronchiectasis and/or suppurative lung disease. An immunoglobulin washout period of four to six months is necessary to enable an accurate assessment. Prophylactic antibiotics may be considered to cover the period of cessation of immunoglobulin therapy.

***Please note: a diagnosis of bronchiectasis and/or suppurative lung disease must be consistent with the guideline of the [Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand](#) and the Australian Lung Foundation (Chang et al 2014).**

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| | <p>Replacement therapy in transient hypogammaglobulinaemia of infancy (children aged less than 4 years)</p> <p>The majority of young children with transient hypogammaglobulinaemia do not require immunoglobulin (Ig) therapy. However, if the patient has had recurrent suppurative infections that threaten organ function, review by an immunologist is recommended for consideration of Ig therapy. Some patients may require treatment during the winter months only and others will benefit from more prolonged treatment.</p> <p>Blood samples for IgG testing should be taken on two occasions, at least one hour apart and at least one sample taken when the patient does not have an infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Younger than four years of age at diagnosis <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of a marked decrease of IgG <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient has demonstrated an increased susceptibility to infection <p>Initial review is required by an Immunologist, at six months, and ongoing reviews at least annually to assess clinical benefit. Documentation of clinical effectiveness is necessary for continuation of Ig therapy.</p> <p>Cessation of Ig therapy should be considered at least after 24 months of treatment. If serum IgM and IgA levels are trending upwards and close to normal, this may suggest recovery of the immune system and a trial might be considered if the patient is well. Once the patient has normal IgA and IgM levels, the IgG is also likely to be normal and a trial off therapy should be undertaken.</p> <p>Ig therapy should be extended as required to enable cessation of therapy in September/October, with repeat clinical and/or immunological evaluation before re-commencement of therapy.</p> <p>When the child is four years old, a decision must be made regarding a trial off treatment or qualification may be appropriate under a different indication such as possible or confirmed CVID.</p> <p>Replacement therapy in recognised primary immunodeficiencies for which immunoglobulin replacement is universally indicated (e.g. SCID, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome, etc.)</p> <p>Blood samples for IgG testing should be taken on two occasions, at least one hour apart and at least one sample taken when the patient does not have an infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed or suspected diagnosis of primary immunodeficiency <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of hypogammaglobulinaemia <p>Initial review by an Immunologist is required at six months, with reviews annually thereafter. Documentation of clinical effectiveness is necessary for continuation of IVIg therapy.</p> <p>Where a diagnosis has initially been suspected, confirmation will be required for access to continuing Ig therapy.</p> |
| <p>Exclusion Criteria</p> | <p>Acquired hypogammaglobulinaemia secondary to haematological malignancy or post HSCT - see Acquired-hypogammaglobulinaemia — haematological malignancy or post HSCT</p> <p>Specific antibody deficiency - see Specific antibody deficiency (SAD)</p> <p>IgG subclass deficiency - see Specific antibody deficiency (SAD)</p> <p>Secondary hypogammaglobulinaemia unrelated to haematological malignancy or stem cell transplantation - see Secondary hypogammaglobulinaemia (including iatrogenic immunodeficiency)</p> |

Review Criteria for Assessing the Effectiveness of Ig Use

Replacement therapy in common variable immune deficiency (CVID) – ESID diagnostic criteria met

Initial review by an immunologist is required at six months and annually thereafter. Documentation of clinical effectiveness is necessary for continuation of Ig therapy.

The review criteria for primary immunodeficiency diseases are to ensure adequate replacement of antibody deficiency and to demonstrate clinical benefit from treatment.

Clinical effectiveness of Ig therapy may be assessed by:

On review of the initial authorisation period

- Monitoring of serum immunoglobulin levels (IgG, IgA and IgM) and any history of infection
AND
- A diagnosis of CVID has been made

On review of a continuing authorisation period

- Monitoring of serum immunoglobulin levels (IgG, IgA and IgM) and any history of infection

Replacement therapy in possible common variable immune deficiency (CVID) – (below normal serum IgG but normal serum IgA level)

Initial review is required by an Immunologist at six months and ongoing reviews at least annually to assess clinical benefit. Documentation of clinical effectiveness is necessary for continuation of Ig therapy.

Cessation of Ig therapy should be considered at least after each 12 months of treatment. If serum IgM and IgA levels are trending upwards and near normal, this may suggest recovery of the immune system and a trial might be considered if the patient is well. Once the patient has normal IgA and IgM levels, the IgG is also likely to be normal and a trial off therapy may be undertaken.

Ig therapy should be extended as required to enable cessation of therapy in September/October, with repeat clinical and/or immunological evaluation before re-commencement of therapy.

This should particularly be considered in patients who do not have active bronchiectasis and/or suppurative lung disease. An immunoglobulin washout period of four to six months is necessary to enable an accurate assessment. Prophylactic antibiotics may be considered to cover the period of cessation of immunoglobulin therapy.

Clinical effectiveness of Ig therapy may be assessed by:

On review of the initial authorisation period

- Monitoring of serum immunoglobulin levels (IgG, IgA and IgM) and any history of infection

AND

- There should be regular consideration of a trial period of cessation of Ig for the purposes of immunological evaluation unless medically contraindicated on safety grounds (for example active bronchiectasis and/or suppurative lung disease, neutropenia, or ongoing immunosuppressant medication) or where there is persistence of the underlying condition that would result in severe hypogammaglobulinaemia in the absence of Ig replacement therapy. Trial cessation is best commenced in September or October.

When IgA and IgM are trending upwards and close to normal and the patient is well, a trial off therapy (in September or October) is considered to allow immunological re-evaluation, unless medically contraindicated.

On review of a continuing authorisation period

- Monitoring of serum immunoglobulin levels (IgG, IgA and IgM) and any history of infection

AND

- There should be regular consideration of a trial period of cessation of Ig for the purposes of immunological evaluation unless medically contraindicated on safety grounds (for example active bronchiectasis and/or suppurative lung disease, neutropenia, or ongoing immunosuppressant medication) or where there is persistence of the underlying condition that would result in severe hypogammaglobulinaemia in the absence of Ig replacement therapy. Trial cessation is best commenced in September or October.

When IgA and IgM are trending upwards and close to normal and the patient is well, a trial off therapy (in September or October) is considered to allow immunological re-evaluation, unless medically contraindicated.

Antibiotic therapy may be indicated in addition to immunoglobulin therapy.

***Please note: a diagnosis of bronchiectasis and/or suppurative lung disease must be consistent with the guideline of the [Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand](#) (Chang et al 2014).**

Replacement therapy in transient hypogammaglobulinaemia of infancy (children aged less than 4 years)

Initial review is required by an Immunologist, at six months, and ongoing reviews at least annually to assess clinical benefit. Documentation of clinical effectiveness is necessary for continuation of Ig therapy.

Cessation of Ig therapy should be considered at least after 24 months of treatment. If serum IgM and IgA levels are trending upwards and close to normal, this may suggest recovery of the immune system and a trial might be considered if the patient is well. Once the patient has normal IgA and IgM levels, the IgG is also likely to be normal and a trial off therapy should be undertaken.

Ig therapy should be extended as required to enable cessation of therapy in September/October, with repeat clinical and/or immunological evaluation before re-commencement of therapy.

When the child is four years old, a decision must be made regarding a trial off treatment or qualification may be appropriate under a different indication such as possible or confirmed CVID.

Clinical effectiveness of Ig therapy may be assessed by:

On review of the initial authorisation period

- Monitoring of serum immunoglobulin levels (IgG, IgA and IgM) and any history of infection

AND

- There should be regular consideration of a trial period of cessation of Ig for the purposes of immunological evaluation unless medically contraindicated on safety grounds (for example active bronchiectasis and/or suppurative lung disease, neutropenia, or ongoing immunosuppressant medication) or where there is persistence of the underlying condition that would result in severe hypogammaglobulinaemia in the absence of Ig replacement therapy. Trial cessation is best commenced in September or October.

When IgA and IgM are trending upwards and close to normal and the patient is well, a trial off therapy (in September or October) is considered to allow immunological re-evaluation, unless medically contraindicated

On review of a continuing authorisation period

- Monitoring of serum immunoglobulin levels (IgG, IgA and IgM) and any history of infection

AND

- There should be regular consideration of a trial period of cessation of Ig for the purposes of immunological evaluation unless medically contraindicated on safety grounds (for example active bronchiectasis and/or suppurative lung disease, neutropenia, or ongoing immunosuppressant medication) or where there is persistence of the underlying condition that would result in severe hypogammaglobulinaemia in the absence of Ig replacement therapy. Trial cessation is best commenced in September or October.

When IgA and IgM are trending upwards and close to normal and the patient is well, a trial off therapy (in September or October) is considered to allow immunological re-evaluation, unless medically contraindicated

Antibiotic therapy may be indicated in addition to immunoglobulin therapy.

***Please note: a diagnosis of bronchiectasis and/or suppurative lung disease must be consistent with the guideline of the [Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand](#) (Chang et al 2014).**

Replacement therapy in recognised primary immunodeficiencies for which immunoglobulin replacement is universally indicated (e.g. SCID, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome, etc.)

Initial review by an Immunologist is required at six months, with reviews annually thereafter. Documentation of clinical effectiveness is necessary for continuation of IVIg therapy.

The review criteria for primary immunodeficiency diseases are to ensure adequate replacement of antibody deficiency and to demonstrate clinical benefit from treatment.

Clinical effectiveness of Ig therapy may be assessed by:

On review of the initial authorisation period

- Monitoring of serum immunoglobulin levels (IgG, IgA and IgM) and any history of infection
AND
- A diagnosis of primary immunodeficiency has been confirmed

On review of a continuing authorisation period

- Monitoring of serum immunoglobulin levels (IgG, IgA and IgM) and any history of infection
AND
- A diagnosis of primary immunodeficiency has been confirmed

- **Loading Dose (IVIg)** - One loading dose of 0.4g/kg in the first month of therapy (in addition to the maintenance dose) is permitted if the serum IgG level is <4g/L.
This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
- **Disseminated Enterovirus Dose (IVIg)** - One dose of 2g/kg at any stage is permitted (in addition to the maintenance dose) in the management of disseminated enterovirus infection.
This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
- **Maintenance Dose (IVIg)** - 0.4–0.6g/kg every four weeks or more frequently, to achieve IgG trough level of at least the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. More frequent dosing to achieve IgG trough level of up to 9 g/L is permitted if chronic suppurative lung disease is not adequately controlled at an IgG trough level at the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. A total dose of up to 1g/kg may be given over any four week period.
This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
- **Supplementary Dose (IVIg)** - One additional dose of 0.4g/kg is permitted at any stage (in addition to the maintenance dose) if the serum IgG level is <4g/L.
This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
- **Loading Dose (SCIg)** - One loading dose of 0.4g/kg in the first month of therapy (in addition to the maintenance dose) is permitted if the serum IgG level is <4g/L.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Disseminated Enterovirus Dose (SCIg)** - One dose of 2g/kg at any stage is permitted (in addition to the maintenance dose) in the management of disseminated enterovirus infection.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Maintenance Dose (SCIg)** - 0.1-0.15g/kg every week or more frequently, to achieve IgG trough level of at least the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. More frequent dosing to achieve IgG trough level of up to 9g/L is permitted if chronic suppurative lung disease is not adequately controlled at an IgG trough level at the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. A total dose of up to 1g/kg may be given over any four week period.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Supplementary Dose (SCIg)** - One additional dose of 0.4g/kg is permitted at any stage (in addition to the maintenance dose) if the serum IgG level is <4g/L.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.

The aim should be to use the lowest dose possible that achieves the appropriate clinical outcome for each patient.

Refer to the current product information sheet for further information on dose, administration and contraindications.

- **Loading Dose (IVIg)** - One loading dose of 0.4g/kg in the first month of therapy (in addition to the maintenance dose) is permitted if the serum IgG level is <4g/L.
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This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Disseminated Enterovirus Dose (SCIg)** - One dose of 2g/kg at any stage is permitted (in addition to the maintenance dose) in the management of disseminated enterovirus infection.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Maintenance Dose (SCIg)** - 0.1-0.15g/kg every week or more frequently, to achieve IgG trough level of at least the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. More frequent dosing to achieve IgG trough level of up to 9g/L is permitted if chronic suppurative lung disease is not adequately controlled at an IgG trough level at the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. A total dose of up to 1g/kg may be given over any four week period.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Supplementary Dose (SCIg)** - One additional dose of 0.4g/kg is permitted at any stage (in addition to the maintenance dose) if the serum IgG level is <4g/L.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.

The aim should be to use the lowest dose possible that achieves the appropriate clinical outcome for each patient.

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This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
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This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
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This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
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This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Maintenance Dose (SCIg)** - 0.1-0.15g/kg every week or more frequently, to achieve IgG trough level of at least the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. More frequent dosing to achieve IgG trough level of up to 9g/L is permitted if chronic suppurative lung disease is not adequately controlled at an IgG trough level at the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. A total dose of up to 1g/kg may be given over any four week period.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Supplementary Dose (SCIg)** - One additional dose of 0.4g/kg is permitted at any stage (in addition to the maintenance dose) if the serum IgG level is <4g/L.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.

Subcutaneous administration of immunoglobulin can be considered as an alternative to IVIg. A suggested dose is 0.1 g/kg lean body mass every week, modified to achieve an IgG trough level of at least the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range.

The aim should be to use the lowest dose possible that achieves the appropriate clinical outcome for each patient.

Refer to the current product information sheet for further information on dose, administration and contraindications.

- **Loading Dose (IVIg)** - One loading dose of 0.4g/kg in the first month of therapy (in addition to the maintenance dose) is permitted if the serum IgG level is <4g/L.
This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
- **Disseminated Enterovirus Dose (IVIg)** - One dose of 2g/kg at any stage is permitted (in addition to the maintenance dose) in the management of disseminated enterovirus infection.
This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
- **Maintenance Dose (IVIg)** - 0.4–0.6g/kg every four weeks or more frequently, to achieve IgG trough level of at least the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. More frequent dosing to achieve IgG trough level of up to 9g/L is permitted if chronic suppurative lung disease is not adequately controlled at an IgG trough level at the lower limit of the age-specific serum IgG reference range. A total dose of up to 1g/kg may be given over any four week period.
This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
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This dose is also available as subcutaneous immunoglobulin.
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This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
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This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
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This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.
- **Supplementary Dose (SCIg)** - One additional dose of 0.4g/kg is permitted at any stage (in addition to the maintenance dose) if the serum IgG level is <4g/L.
This dose is also available as intravenous immunoglobulin.

The aim should be to use the lowest dose possible that achieves the appropriate clinical outcome for each patient.

Refer to the current product information sheet for further information on dose, administration and contraindications.

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