

# glofitamab

**Pronunciation:** gloh-FIH-tah-mab

**Other Name(s):** Columvi®

**Appearance:** colourless solution, mixed into larger bags of fluids for infusion

This handout gives general information about this cancer medication.

You will learn:

- who to contact for help
- what the medication is
- how it is given
- what to expect while on medication



This handout was created by Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) together with patients and their caregivers who have also gone through cancer treatment. It is meant to help support you through your cancer treatment and answer some of your questions.

**This information does not replace the advice of your health care team. Always talk to your health care team about your treatment.**

## Who do I contact if I have questions or need help?

My cancer health care provider is: \_\_\_\_\_

During the day I should contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Evenings, weekends and holidays: \_\_\_\_\_

## What is this treatment for?

Glofitamab is used to treat certain types of blood cancers called lymphomas (such as B-cell lymphomas and follicular lymphoma).

## What should I do before I start this treatment?

Tell your health care team if you have or had significant medical condition(s), especially if you have / had:

- kidney, liver, or heart problems,
- problems with your nervous system (brain and nerves),
- an active infection, or
- any allergies.



### Remember To:

- ✓ Tell your health care team about all of the other medications you are taking.
- ✓ Keep taking other medications that have been prescribed for you, unless you have been told not to by your health care team.

You will have a blood test to check for hepatitis B before starting treatment. See the [Hepatitis B and Cancer Medications](#) pamphlet for more information.

## How is this treatment given?

- This medication is given through an IV (injected into a vein).
- You may be admitted to hospital when you get your first treatments so that your health care team can monitor how your body reacts.
- You will be given another medication, called obinutuzumab, 7 days before starting glofitamab treatment. Your healthcare team will give you other medications (called pre-medications) before your treatments. These medications will all help prevent allergic reactions and side effects.
- Your glofitamab injection will be given according to a step-up schedule (also known as ramp-up) for the first 3 doses. This means that your doses will start off smaller and will be increased over time so that your health care team can make sure you do not have any problems with the medication. Talk to your health care team about your treatment schedule.
- Glofitamab may be given over a longer period of time (for example, over 4 hours) for the first 3 doses. If you don't have problems with these infusions, it may be given over a shorter time for the following doses.
- If you missed your treatment appointment, talk to your health care team to find out what to do.

**You will have a blood test before each treatment dose to make sure it is safe for you to get treatment.**

## Other medications you may be given with this treatment

### To Prevent Allergic Reaction

You will be given medications before your treatment to help prevent allergic reactions before they start and help prevent side effects.

- There are different types of medications to stop allergic reactions. They are called:
  - antihistamines (such as diphenhydramine or Benadryl®)
  - analgesics/antipyretics (such as acetaminophen or Tylenol®)
  - corticosteroids (such as dexamethasone)

**To Prevent Infection from Bacteria**

You may be given a medication to take before your treatment to prevent infection.

- These are called antibiotics (such as trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole).

**To Prevent Infection from Herpes Zoster Virus (Shingles)**

You may be given medication to take before your treatment to prevent infection from the Herpes Zoster virus.

- These are called anti-virals (such as acyclovir or valacyclovir).

**To Prevent Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)**

TLS can happen when a large number of cancer cells die quickly and your body cannot get rid of them fast enough. TLS can make you very sick. Ask your health care team if you are at risk for TLS.

If you are at risk for TLS, you may be given medications before your glofitamab treatment to help prevent it.

- These are called anti-uricemics (such as allopurinol), or others.

**To Prevent Hepatitis B Flare Ups**

If you have ever been infected with hepatitis B, there is a risk that this treatment can cause it to flare up (come back). Tell your health care team if you have had hepatitis B. You may need to take medication to prevent a hepatitis B flare-up.

## Other important things for you to know about this treatment

Glofitamab causes your immune system to work harder. Your immune system is what fights infections and your cancer.

When your immune system is working harder, it can also damage healthy cells. This can cause side effects that are different from other cancer medications, like chemotherapy.

**Cytokine release syndrome (CRS)** can happen when your immune system responds aggressively to glofitamab. CRS usually happens during the ramp up schedule and with your first full dose. The symptoms can be mild but can also quickly become severe and life-threatening.

CRS can be treated. It is important to catch it early so that the treatment has the best chance of working well. Talk to your healthcare team **right away** if you have any of the following signs of CRS:

- Fever higher than 38°C
- Trouble breathing
- Fast or irregular heartbeat
- Flu-like symptoms (such as chills, body aches and fatigue)
- Severe nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

**Immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome (ICANS)** is a side effect from glofitamab that affects your nervous system (brain and nerves). ICANS can happen on its own, or together with CRS. It can start during treatment, up to a week after treatment, or may start a few days after developing CRS.

ICANS is treatable, and it is very important to manage it as quickly as possible. You should talk to your health care team right away if you have any of the following signs of ICANS:

- Headaches that are new or worse than usual
- Drowsiness or weakness
- Tremors (shaking or trembling)
- Change in handwriting
- Trouble speaking or swallowing
- Seizures

## DO this while on treatment

- ✓ DO check with your health care team before getting any vaccinations, surgery, dental work or other medical procedures.
- ✓ DO consider asking someone to drive you to and from the hospital on your treatment days. You may feel drowsy or dizzy after your treatment.
- ✓ DO tell your health care team about any serious infections that you have now or have had in the past. This includes herpes virus (such as Shingles), Hepatitis B infections, long-lasting infections (chronic) or an infection which keeps coming back (recurring).

## DO NOT do this while on treatment



- ✗ DO NOT smoke or drink alcohol while on treatment without talking to your health care team first. Smoking and drinking can make side effects worse and make your treatment not work as well.
- ✗ DO NOT start any complementary or alternative therapies, such as acupuncture or homeopathic medications, without checking with your health care team.
- ✗ DO NOT take any other medications, such as vitamins, over-the-counter (non-prescription) drugs, or natural health products without checking with your health care team.
- ✗ DO NOT drive, operate machinery or do any tasks that need you to be alert if you feel drowsy or dizzy.

## Will this treatment interact with other medications or natural health products?

- Yes, this medication can interact with other medications, vitamins, foods and natural health products. Interactions can make this medication not work as well or cause severe side effects.
  - Tell your health care team about all of your:
    - prescription and over-the-counter (non-prescription) medications
    - natural health products such as vitamins, herbal teas, homeopathic medicines, and other supplements
  - Check with your health care team before starting or stopping any of them.
- If you are taking a blood thinner (such as warfarin), your health care team may need extra blood tests and may change your dose.



### Talk to your health care team **BEFORE** taking or using these :

- Anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen (Advil<sup>®</sup> or Motrin<sup>®</sup>), naproxen (Aleve<sup>®</sup>) or Aspirin<sup>®</sup>.
- Over-the-counter products such as dimenhydrinate (Gravol<sup>®</sup>)
- Natural health products such as St. John's Wort
- Supplements such as vitamin C
- Grapefruit juice
- Alcoholic drinks
- Tobacco
- All other drugs, such as marijuana or cannabis (medical or recreational)

## What to do if you feel unwell, have pain, a headache or a fever

- ✓ **Always** check your temperature to see if you have a fever **before** taking any medications for fever or pain (such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®)).
  - Fever can be a sign of infection that may need treatment right away.
  - If you take these medications before you check for fever, they may lower your temperature and you may not know you have an infection.

### How to check for fever:

Keep a digital (electronic) thermometer at home and take your temperature if you feel hot or unwell (for example, chills, headache, mild pain).

- You have a fever if your temperature taken **in your mouth (oral temperature)** is:
    - 38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time
- OR
- 38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.



### If you do have a fever:

- ✓ **Try to contact your health care team. If you are not able to talk to them for advice, you MUST get emergency medical help right away.**
- ✓ Ask your health care team for the [Fever](#) pamphlet for more information.



If you do not have a fever but have mild symptoms such as headache or mild pain:

- ✓ Ask your health care team about the right medication for you. **Acetaminophen (Tylenol®)** is a safe choice for most people.



**Talk to your health care team before you start taking** ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or ASA (Aspirin®), as they may increase your chance of bleeding or interact with your cancer treatment.



Talk to your health care team if you already take **low dose aspirin** for a medical condition (such as a heart problem). It may still be safe to take.

## How will this treatment affect sex, pregnancy and breastfeeding?

**Talk to your health care team about:**

- How this treatment may affect your sexual health
- How this treatment may affect your ability to have a baby, if this applies to you

This treatment may harm an unborn baby. Tell your health care team if you or your partner are pregnant, become pregnant during treatment, or are breastfeeding.

- If there is **any** chance of pregnancy happening, you and your partner together must use **2 effective forms of birth control** at the same time until at least **2 months** after your last treatment dose. Talk to your health care team about which birth control options are best for you.
- Do not breastfeed while on this treatment and for at least **2 months** after your last dose.

## What are the side effects of this treatment?

The following table lists side effects that you may have when getting glofitamab treatment. The table is set up to list the most common side effects first and the least common last. It is unlikely that you will have all of the side effects listed and you may have some that are not listed.

Read over the side effect table so that you know what to look for and when to get help. Refer to this table if you experience any side effects while on glofitamab treatment.

Some side effects can become serious or life-threatening very quickly. You must tell your health care team **right away** if:

- You start to have **any new side effects**, especially if severe
- You notice any of your side effects getting worse

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>Cytokine release syndrome</b></p> <p>Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) can happen when your immune system responds aggressively to glofitamab. This can cause the release of a large amount of proteins called cytokines.</p> <p>CRS usually happens at the start of treatment, when your immune system starts to work harder (within hours and up to a few days of getting your first 3 doses).</p> <p>Symptoms of CRS can be mild but can also quickly become severe and life-threatening. Your health care team will monitor you more closely during and for a few days after your first 3 doses, and do blood tests as necessary.</p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever. Sometimes the fever can be high (more than 40°C).</li> <li>• You may also have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Trouble breathing</li> <li>◦ Fast or irregular heartbeats</li> <li>◦ Flu-like symptoms (such as chills, body aches and fatigue)</li> <li>◦ Severe nausea, vomiting or diarrhea</li> <li>◦ Signs of low blood pressure, such as dizziness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Talk to your health care team right away if you have any of these symptoms. If you are unable to talk to the team for advice, you must get emergency medical help right away.</p>

Very Common Side Effects (50 or more out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell your nurse right away if you feel any signs of CRS during or just after your treatment. Symptoms may get worse quickly.</li> </ul> <p>If you have left the hospital:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Check your temperature to see if you have a fever.</b> If you have a fever, or any other signs of CRS, try to contact your health care team. If you cannot speak to the team for advice, you <b>MUST</b> get emergency medical help right away.</li> </ul>	

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>Low neutrophils (white blood cells) in the blood (neutropenia)</b></p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>When neutrophils are low, you are at risk of getting an infection more easily. Ask your health care team for the <a href="#">Neutropenia (Low white blood cell count)</a> pamphlet for more information.</p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you feel hot or unwell (for example if you have chills or a new cough), you <b>must</b> check your temperature to see if you have a fever.</li> <li>Do not take medications that treat a fever before you take your temperature (for example, Tylenol® (acetaminophen), or Advil® (ibuprofen)).</li> <li>Do not eat or drink anything hot or cold right before taking your temperature.</li> </ul> <p>You have a fever if your temperature taken in your mouth (oral temperature) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38.3°C (100.9°F) or higher at any time OR</li> <li>38.0°C (100.4°F) or higher for at least one hour.</li> </ul>	<p>If you have a fever, try to contact your health care team. If you are unable to talk to the team for advice, you <b>MUST</b> get emergency medical help right away.</p>

<b>Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)</b>	
<b>Side effects and what to do</b>	<b>When to contact health care team</b>
<p><b>What to do?</b></p> <p><b>If your health care team has told you that you have low neutrophils:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands often to prevent infection.</li> <li>• Check with your health care team before getting any vaccines, surgeries, medical procedures or visiting your dentist.</li> <li>• Keep a digital thermometer at home so you can easily check for a fever.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have a fever:</b></p> <p><b>If you have a fever, try to contact your health care team. If you are unable to talk to the team for advice, you must get emergency medical help right away.</b></p>	
<p><b>Low platelets in the blood</b></p> <p>(May be severe)</p> <p>When your platelets are low, you are at risk for bleeding and bruising. Ask your health care team for the <a href="#">Low Platelet Count</a> pamphlet for more information.</p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for signs of bleeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ bleeding from your gums</li> <li>◦ unusual or heavy nosebleeds</li> <li>◦ bruising easily or more than normal</li> <li>◦ black coloured stools (poo) or blood in your stools (poo)</li> <li>◦ coughing up red or brown coloured mucus</li> <li>◦ dizziness, constant headache or changes in your vision</li> <li>◦ heavy vaginal bleeding</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <p><b>If your health care team has told you that you have low platelets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell your pharmacist that your platelet count may be low before taking any prescriptions or over-the-counter medication.</li> <li>• Check with your healthcare team before you go to the dentist.</li> <li>• Take care of your mouth and use a soft toothbrush.</li> </ul>	<p>Talk to your health care team if you have any signs of bleeding. If you have bleeding that doesn't stop or is severe (very heavy), you <b>MUST</b> get emergency help right away.</p>

Common Side Effects (25 to 49 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to prevent cuts and bruises.</li> <li>• Ask your health care team what activities are safe for you.</li> <li>• Your treatment may have to be delayed if you have low platelets. Your health care team may recommend a blood transfusion.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have signs of bleeding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have a small bleed, clean the area with soap and water or a saline (saltwater) rinse. Apply pressure for at least 10 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have bleeding that does not stop or is severe (very heavy), you must get emergency medical help right away.</b></p>	

Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)	
Side effects and what to do	When to contact health care team
<p><b>Fatigue</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeling of tiredness or low energy that lasts a long time and does not go away with rest or sleep.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be active. Aim to get 30 minutes of moderate exercise (you are able to talk comfortably while exercising) on most days.</li> <li>• Check with your health care team before starting any new exercise.</li> <li>• Pace yourself, do not rush. Put off less important activities. Rest when you need to.</li> <li>• Ask family or friends to help you with things like housework, shopping, and child or pet care.</li> <li>• Eat well and drink at least 6 to 8 glasses of water or other liquids every day (unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less).</li> <li>• Avoid driving or using machinery if you are feeling tired.</li> </ul> <p>Ask your health care team for the <a href="#">Fatigue</a> pamphlet for more information.</p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

<b>Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)</b>	
<b>Side effects and what to do</b>	<b>When to contact health care team</b>
<p><b>Too much or too little salt in your body</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle spasms, cramping, weakness, twitching, or convulsions.</li> <li>• Irregular heartbeat, confusion or blood pressure changes.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <p><b>Get emergency medical help right away for severe symptoms.</b></p>	<p>Get emergency medical help right away for severe symptoms.</p>
<p><b>Rash; dry, itchy skin</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may have cracked, rough, flaking or peeling areas of the skin.</li> <li>• Your skin may look red and feel warm, like a sunburn.</li> <li>• Your skin may itch, burn, sting or feel very tender when touched.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <p><b>To prevent and treat dry skin:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use fragrance-free skin moisturizer.</li> <li>• Protect your skin from the sun and the cold.</li> <li>• Use sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection and a SPF of at least 30.</li> <li>• Avoid perfumed products and lotions that contain alcohol.</li> <li>• Drink 6 to 8 cups of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated liquids each day, unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rash may be severe in some rare cases and cause your skin to blister or peel. If this happens, get emergency medical help right away.</b></p>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>
<p><b>Constipation</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having bowel movements (going poo) less often than normal.</li> <li>• Small hard stools (poo) that look like pellets.</li> <li>• The need to push hard and strain to have any stool (poo) come out.</li> <li>• Stomach ache or cramps.</li> <li>• A bloated belly, feeling of fullness, or discomfort.</li> <li>• Leaking of watery stools (poo).</li> <li>• Lots of gas or burping.</li> <li>• Nausea or vomiting.</li> </ul>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

<b>Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)</b>	
<b>Side effects and what to do</b>	<b>When to contact health care team</b>
<p><b>What to do?</b></p> <p><b>To help prevent constipation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to eat more fiber rich foods like fruits with skin, leafy greens and whole grains.</li> <li>• Drink at least 6 to 8 cups of liquids each day unless your health care team has told you to drink more or less.</li> <li>• Be Active. Exercise can help to keep you regular.</li> <li>• If you take opioid pain medication, ask your health care team if eating more fibre is right for you.</li> </ul> <p><b>To help treat constipation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have not had a bowel movement in 2 to 3 days you may need to take a laxative (medication to help you poo) to help you have regular bowel movements. Ask your health care team what to do.</li> </ul> <p>Ask your health care team for the <a href="#">Constipation</a> Pamphlet for more information.</p>	
<p><b>Mild swelling</b></p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may have mild swelling or puffiness in your arms and/or legs. Rarely, this may be severe.</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <p><b>To help prevent swelling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat a low-salt diet.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have swelling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear loose-fitting clothing.</li> <li>• For swollen legs or feet, keep your feet up when sitting.</li> </ul>	<p>Talk to your health care team if it does not improve or if it is severe.</p>

<b>Less Common Side Effects (10 to 24 out of 100 people)</b>	
<b>Side effects and what to do</b>	<b>When to contact health care team</b>
<p><b>Tumour flare (flare of your cancer symptoms)</b></p> <p>Tumour flare is a temporary worsening of tumour-related symptoms following the start of treatment. It usually happens within the first few weeks of starting treatment and goes away as your medication starts working. It does not mean your cancer is getting worse.</p> <p><b>What to look for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tender or swollen lymph nodes</li> <li>• Pain in the area where your tumour is</li> <li>• Chest pain</li> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Trouble breathing</li> </ul> <p><b>What to do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk to your health care team if you have symptoms of a tumour flare. They may need to do tests to rule out other causes and may need to start you on treatment.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you have severe symptoms such as severe pain or trouble breathing, get emergency medical help right away.</b></p>	<p>Talk to your health care team. If you cannot speak with the team for advice, you must get emergency medical help right away.</p>

**Other rare, but serious side effects are possible with this treatment.**

If you have **any** of the following, talk to your cancer health care team or get emergency medical help right away:

- Shortness of breath, chest pain or fainting spells
- Vomiting up blood or what looks like coffee-grounds
- Pain in your lower back or on the right side of your belly
- Weakness, muscle twitches, cramps or itchiness that won't go away
- Changes in urination (peeing) such as less urine than usual or unusually dark urine (pee)
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes
- Headaches that are new or worse than usual
- Tremors, trouble walking, speaking or swallowing
- Change in handwriting
- Seizures
- Feeling confused



