

Methotrexate		
Reference	How To Guide 35	
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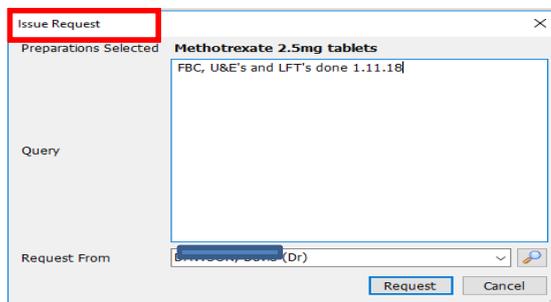
### 1. Purpose

Oral methotrexate is a safe and effective medication if taken at the right dose and with appropriate monitoring. However, very occasionally problems with taking the medication can cause serious harm and even death. The NPSA produced advice in 2004 "Towards the safer use of oral methotrexate" and then a Patient Safety Alert in 2006 (NPSA/2006/13). Advice from the NPSA has been incorporated in this guidance.

### 2. Procedure

When dealing with prescription requests for methotrexate you must check:

- The individual repeat prescriptions should not exceed a 28 day supply.
- The use of 'as directed' must be avoided. A specific dose must be applied to each prescription.
- The dose frequency must be stated as ONCE WEEKLY.
- Ensure the number of tablets to be taken once weekly is clearly stated on the directions.
- Only the 2.5mg tablets must be prescribed. DO NOT issue prescriptions for 10mg tablets
- The FBC, U&Es and LFTs are up to date and have been checked within the last 3 months or sooner depending on requirements for the patient. See drug monitoring document 'How To' guide 14
- All prescription requests for methotrexate must be sent to the prescriber to be checked before issuing.
- It is useful to send them as a 'request issue' or with a 'task comment' stating the date of last FBC's, U&E's and LFT's.



- When issuing, the following warning box will appear to highlight further information is required
- Even if not going to issue, click proceed as clicking 'do not proceed' will reject the medication rejected



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