



## Kenalog Information Sheet

### ***What you need to know before a Kenalog Intramuscular injection, (IM)***

Kenalog is a Corticosteroid (Steroid) Medicine.

Kenalog can be used in the treatment of joint pain, swelling and stiffness in inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis. It is also used for the treatment of various allergic disorders including asthma and seasonal allergies.

Steroid medicines suppress your body's natural immune response. Therefore, if you come into contact with anyone who has an infectious disease such as chickenpox, shingles or measles, this may make you more susceptible to infection.

### ***Do not receive Kenalog IA/IM Injection if;***

- You have had an allergic reaction to a similar medicine or any of the ingredients.
- You are suffering from an infection unless already on treatment.

### ***Kenalog IA/IM Injection is not recommended if:***

- You have had any recent infection
- You have had recent bowel surgery, bowel disorder or stomach ulcer
- You have had any severe mental health disorders or epilepsy
- You have recently suffered from any form of cancer
- You have uncontrolled high blood pressure or heart failure
- You are an unstable diabetic
- **If you have ever had severe depression or manic depression** (bipolar disorder). Kenalog may cause mood changes and exacerbate mental health disorders.

### ***Always tell your doctor if you are taking other medicines before having a Kenalog injection. In particular:***

- Aspirin, ibuprofen or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) as corticosteroids can increase the chance of bleeding from the gut
- Warfarin or other medicines to thin the blood
- Meds for: High blood pressure or irregular heart beat (e.g. digoxin)
- Epilepsy (e.g. phenytoin)
- Diabetes

### ***If you are due to have surgery***

Before surgery and anaesthesia (even at the dentist) you should tell the doctor or dentist that you are being treated with Kenalog injection.

### ***Pregnancy and breastfeeding***

If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or if you are breast-feeding you should make sure you discuss this with your doctor as soon as possible before receiving Kenalog injection.

### ***Common side effects: may affect up to 1 in 10 people***

Injection site reactions.

### ***Uncommon side effects: may affect up to 1 in 100 people***

- Stretch marks, darkening of skin colour
- Yeast infections e.g. thrush.
- A small risk of bone thinning and a rare condition known as avascular necrosis of the hip joint
- Dimpling at the injection site which may appear many months later and persist long term