Taking Carbimazole or Propylthiouracil (PTU)

We hope you will find this leaflet useful. It explains when and how to take Carbimazole or PTU and has important information about side effects. If you have any questions about the leaflet or you are worried about any aspect of your treatment at The Christie, please talk to your doctor.

You can contact the Endocrine Team at The Christie on 0161 446 3479.
We have given you Carbimazole or Propylthiouracil to control the over activity of your thyroid gland (thyrotoxicosis).

**Carbimazole or PTU and side effects**
Side effects are uncommon and the drugs are very safe providing that you follow these instructions:

Very occasionally, Carbimazole or PTU can stop the production of white blood cells or blood platelets which are needed to form clots. (The signs are described below.) If this occurs, you should stop taking the Carbimazole or PTU immediately. This allows the white cells or platelets to recover quickly.

The early signs that the medicine may be affecting the white blood cells are:

- a sore throat
- mouth ulcers
- excessive bruising or a skin rash.

If you get any of these you should *immediately* stop taking Carbimazole or PTU. You should see your general practitioner or go to your local Accident & Emergency department the same day or next day. Take this leaflet with you. You will have a blood test. If the test shows your white blood cells or platelets are normal you should continue taking the Carbimazole or PTU.

Of course, sore throats, mouth ulcers, and skin rashes are very common and it is most likely that if you get one of these it is not due to Carbimazole or PTU. However, the only safe action is to stop Carbimazole or PTU until you have had the result of the blood test.

**How to contact us**

**Normal working hours (9am to 5pm):**

The Endocrine Team 0161 446 3479

**At other times (5pm to 9am):**

**You should first** contact your own General Practitioner or go to your local Accident & Emergency Department

If necessary, ring The Christie switchboard on 0161 446 3000 and ask for the Nurse Practitioner on call.