

Appendix 8: Using Sulphasalazine and 5-Aminosalicylates

Sulphasalazine and 5-ASA Guideline

Checklist before commencing Sulphasalazine/5-ASA

- (1) Review any history of Sulpha allergy (patient or family): Sulphasalazine then contraindicated if allergic history
- (2) Review current medications
- (3) Review side-effects profile
- (4) Give Information Sheet

Baseline Tests

- (1) Full blood count
- (2) Liver chemistry

Dosage schedule

Standard dose 50 mg/kg/day, given in 2-3 divided doses

Dosage increased progressively over 7-10 days

- (1) Commence at 25% of final dose
- (2) Increase after 3 days to 50% of final dose
- (3) Increase after a further 3 days to 75% of final dose
- (4) Increase after 3 days to final (full) dose

Monitoring

- (1) FBC, renal function and liver function tests
- (2) Monitor renal chemistry at least every 12 months