

Using Sulfasalazine (Sulphasalazine) and 5-ASA

Before starting Sulfasalazine / 5-ASA

- Review any history of Sulfonamides (sulfa drug) allergy (patient or family): Sulfasalazine is contraindicated if allergic history
- Review current medications
- Review side-effect profile
- Give Information Sheet to family.

Baseline tests

- Full blood count
- Liver chemistry

Dosage schedule

Sulfasalazine given in 2 – 3 divided doses.

5-ASA preparations typically commenced in twice daily dosing, but move to once daily dosing when established.

Dosage increased progressively over 7-10 days.

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

Monitoring

- FBC, renal function and liver function tests
- Monitor renal chemistry at least every 12 months