

Is Financial Assistance Available for PI Patients Moving Into Assisted Living?

I have a family member who has a primary immunodeficiency and who is moving into an assisted living care facility. However, because of her income, she will need to share a room with another resident. We are concerned sharing a room will compromise her ability to isolate, as is needed for her health. Since this is a medical issue, do you know if there is financial assistance available? She lives in Georgia and is on Medicare.

Abbie: Unfortunately, this issue is a growing problem in the United States because of the increasing number of chronically ill older adults and the complex nature of their care, as well as the increasing cost of care. However, there are several measures you can take. First, sit down with a staff member at the care facility to determine the requirements for a single room. Then, ask your family member's physician to provide medical documentation of her condition. If they still will not provide her with a single room, you may need to obtain legal advice. An attorney specializing in healthcare can determine if the care facility is legally required to provide a single room. The attorney can also advise you about whether the facility is liable if your family member becomes ill. In addition, many states have Medicare advocates, so you might see if an advocate can assist you. (See [medicare.gov/talk-to-someone](https://www.medicare.gov/talk-to-someone) or [shiphelp.org](https://www.shiphelp.org) to search for localized help with Medicare.)

Is Gammaked More Effective Than Gamunex-C?

I am inquiring about the efficacy of two immune globulin (IG) products: Gammaked and Gamunex-C. Is Gammaked more effective than Gamunex-C? I'm also wondering whether it is more effective to refrigerate an IG product until a few hours prior to an infusion than to store it at room temperature.

Abbie: According to Leslie Vaughan, RPh, CSP, IgCP, chief operations officer at Nufactor, a specialty infusion company, Gammaked and Gamunex-C are both manufactured by Grifols using the same process, so they are essentially the same product. Generally, all IG products are equal in their efficacy but they may differ in terms of how patients tolerate them. The only real difference between Gammaked and Gamunex-C is the source plasma.

Regarding refrigeration, manufacturers are required to study product stability to determine whether a product needs to be refrigerated or can be stored at room temperature. Both Gammaked and Gamunex-C have a 36-month shelf life when stored under refrigeration and a six-month shelf life when stored at room temperature after they are removed from refrigeration (within the 36-month time line). Neither refrigeration nor room temperature storage change the efficacy of the products as long as storage recommendations are followed (i.e, 36 months refrigerated, six months room temperature within the 36 month expiration dating).

» **Have a question?** Email us at editor@IGLiving.com.
Your information will remain confidential unless permission is given.



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