

Having chemotherapy through an Elastomeric Infusor

What is an Elastomeric Infusor?

An elastomeric infusor is a lightweight, disposable plastic bottle that contains a balloon filled with chemotherapy. It is used to give chemotherapy continuously over a timeframe of 24 hours to 7 days.

The infusor will allow you to have your chemotherapy at home. The shape and size of the infusor may change depending on the time your chemotherapy is administered over.

How does the infusor work?

- The infusor is connected to a central venous access device (CVAD) such as a PICC line, Hickman® line or a port-a-cath® (port).
- On each infusor there is a flow restrictor. The flow restrictor ensures that your chemotherapy is delivered at the rate your doctor has ordered.
- The flow restrictor must be taped to your body at all times.
- After the nurse connects the infusor to your port or line, the balloon will start to very slowly deflate.
- Your nurse will tell you when your infusor should be complete. If the infusor finishes before your appointment time, contact your clinic.
- When the infusor is finished, your nurse will disconnect it. Your line or port will be flushed and redressed. If you need more chemotherapy, a new infusor will be connected.

Day to day activities

- You will be given a small bag to carry the infusor in. You can wear this around your waist. Make sure the infusor does not go above your shoulder or below your waist.
- The infusor is water resistant, but not waterproof. To shower, cover your dressing with plastic and place your infusor in a plastic bag to keep it dry.
- You can do light exercise, such as walking. Avoid any vigorous exercise and do not go swimming.

How do I know the infusor is working?

- There will be a measurement scale on the infusor. When the balloon starts to deflate, it can be measured on the scale.
- You will see the balloon become thinner and shorter. Your nurse will tell you how fast this will happen. If this happens slower or quicker than expected, contact your clinic.
- You must check your line or port needle once a day for any fluid leaking, redness, pain or swelling.



- If you have a port, press down gently on the needle with your index finger to check it is in place. You may be able to feel the needle touch the back of the port. The needle should feel firm and not wobble or move.

! Important

Contact your doctor or nurse if you have:

- a temperature of 38°C or higher
- shortness of breath
- chest pain or fast heartbeat
- a burning sensation or any redness, pain or swelling around your line or port
- fluid leaking from the infusor, tubing, or your line or CVAD
- your line or port needle has changed position or been pulled out.

If you can't contact your doctor or nurse, go to the nearest hospital emergency department for help.

What do I do if the balloon does not deflate?

Make sure you have waited at least four hours for the balloon to decrease in size.

Make sure:

- the clamps on your line are open
- the line is not kinked
- the flow connector is taped to your skin, and not above your head or below your waist.

If there are no obstructions, contact your clinic for further instructions. Do not disconnect the infusor.

What do I do if I notice air bubbles in the line?

Small bubbles within the tubing are not harmful. If you notice a large air bubble in the line, clamp the line. Contact your clinic or if after hours, attend the nearest hospital emergency department.

What do I do if there is a leak, or my needle or line comes out?

- clamp the line immediately and put gloves on
- do not disconnect the infusor
- place the infusor in a plastic bag
- go to your nearest hospital emergency department

You will be given a spill kit to take home. This will have instructions on what to do if a leak occurs and equipment to use to clean the spill.

If the chemotherapy touches your skin, rinse the area with running water and wash with warm soapy water.

If the chemotherapy goes on your clothing or linen, wash these items separately using a hot or cold wash at the maximum cycle, then line dry.

What do I do if the infusor is empty before my appointment?

- When the infusor is empty, the balloon will appear deflated.
- If the balloon is deflated before your appointment time, clamp the line and contact your clinic.
- Do not disconnect the infusor.



If the infusor or tubing is damaged or leaking; clamp the line, and contact your doctor or nurse.

How do I look after the infusor?

- Do not expose the infusor to direct sunlight or heat. This may speed up the rate of your chemotherapy.
- Do not expose the infusor to direct cold, such as an ice pack. This may slow down the rate of your chemotherapy.
- When sleeping, place the infusor on the bed side table, or on top of the bed covers. Do not place the infusor under the bed covers. It may be too warm, and speed up the rate of your chemotherapy.
- Make sure that the infusor is kept at a similar height as your port needle or line.
- Make sure that the flow restrictor is taped to your body.
- The infusor can be damaged if it is dropped or hit. Try to avoid dropping the infusor.

Contact numbers:

Daytime:

Night/weekend: