

Going home with an infusor via a PICC or Hickman line

This leaflet is written for patients who are going home with an infusor bottle attached to a PICC or Hickman line for their chemotherapy treatment. If anything is unclear please ask one of the team treating you.

Why do we use infusor systems?

The chemotherapy drugs you need must be given over a number of days. This is done by using a disposable bottle called an infusor which can be attached to your PICC or Hickman line.

Infusor bottles come in different sizes and can be used for a number of days, after which the bottle will either be disconnected or changed for another one.

Checklist of supplies to take home:

- Disposable gloves
- Chemotherapy waste bag
- Cap (taped to bottom of infusor bottle)

Always check your PICC or Hickman line is not clamped shut before you leave the hospital.

How do I know if the infusor is working?



Your infusor is a clear plastic bottle containing a balloon filled with liquid (chemotherapy). There are markings on the bottle to help you see that the balloon is getting smaller over time. The liquid flows very slowly, so you may only notice a change in the size of the balloon after 6-8 hours. If you still think the liquid is not infusing, contact the hospital as soon as possible.

What should I do if the infusor leaks or bursts?

1. If your PICC or Hickman line has a clamp, close it straight away
2. Put on the supplied disposable gloves
3. Disconnect the infusor bottle from the PICC or Hickman line (taking care not to remove the bung at the end of your PICC or Hickman line). The cap that is taped on the end of your bottle should then be attached to the end of the infusor line to prevent any further chemotherapy leakages
4. Place the disconnected infusor bottle into a chemotherapy waste bag (or any plastic bag without holes in). Tie the bag to seal it
5. Notify the hospital straight away by telephoning the **Mount Vernon Cancer Centre 24 hour Acute Oncology Service on 07825 028855**
6. Bring the infusor bottle back to the hospital in the sealed bag as soon as you can. **Do not throw it away**
7. You will **also need** to attend the hospital to have your PICC or Hickman line checked and flushed
8. If the chemotherapy drug has spilt onto your skin, a surface, furnishings or clothing, **follow the instructions over the page and contact Mount Vernon Cancer Centre 24 hour Acute Oncology Service on 07825 028855 immediately**

Spillage onto skin

1. Rinse the affected area with lots of **cold** water. After this, wash the affected area thoroughly with **cold** soapy water, rinse well and repeat
2. Do **not** use hot water or any creams

Spillage onto a surface

1. Put on your protective gloves/rubber household gloves
2. Put paper towels (e.g. kitchen roll) in a ring around the spill to contain it
3. Cover the spillage with towels
4. Soak up the fluid until the towels are moist but not dripping and put the used towels in the chemotherapy waste bag you were given (or in a plastic bag without holes in it)
5. Continue until all the spillage has been cleared
6. Pick up the towels around the spill and dispose of them in the same way
7. Dispose of everything you have used in the chemotherapy waste bag (or plastic bag without holes in) and seal it
8. Place this bag inside another plastic bag (double bag it)
9. Take the bag to the unit treating you as soon as you can
10. Then, working from the outside in, wash the affected surface with lots of soapy water and dry well

Spillage onto furnishings

Treat as above.

Spillage on clothing/bed linen

Clothing and/or bed linen must be treated immediately.

1. Remove all affected clothing (wearing protective gloves/household rubber gloves)
2. Carefully strip bed linen (wearing protective gloves/household rubber gloves)
3. Wash contaminated items separately from other laundry at the highest possible temperature

How do I sleep with my infusor bottle?

Many people find it comfortable to tuck their infusor under their pillow. Do not place it on the floor or hang it above your head.

How do I shower/bath?

The infusor can get wet but must not be submerged in water. It can be left in the bag or hung on a suction cup shower hook.

Can I go on an aeroplane with my infusor bottle?

Yes, as long as you take your infusor with you in the pressurised cabin.

If either you or your relatives want to be taught how to disconnect your infusor and flush your PICC / Hickman line, please ask the nursing staff treating you.

**For urgent medical advice
Mount Vernon Cancer Centre
24 hour Acute Oncology Service
07825 028855**