

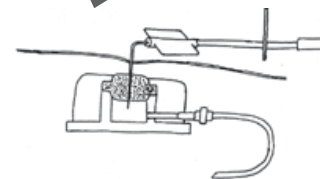


Mount Vernon
Cancer Centre

Going home with an infusor via a port

Information for patients at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

This leaflet is written for patients who are going home with an infusor 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 pump called an infusor which can be attached to your port (central catheter) using a special needle.

When the drugs have been given the needle will be removed and the bottle disconnected, or a new needle will be attached with another infusor pump. Infusors come in different sizes and can be used for a number of days, after which the infusor will either be disconnected or changed for another one.

Checklist of supplies to take home:

- Disposable gloves
- Chemotherapy waste bag (bag without holes in)
- Small sharps bin
- Cap (taped to bottom of infusor)
- Apron

Always check the line is open and not clamped shut before you leave the hospital.

Important information

Check the needle site regularly to see if there are any signs of redness or swelling, or if the needle has moved out of place.

What if I think the needle has moved out of place?

1. If you suspect the needle has moved out of place: close the clamp which is on the line (this will stop any more of the drug going in).
2. **Contact Mount Vernon Cancer Centre or Lister Hospital using the numbers overleaf immediately.**

What if the needle comes out?

1. If the needle has come out, clamp the line and place it with the infusor bottle still attached into the sharps bin.

2. **Contact Mount Vernon Cancer Centre or Lister Hospital using the numbers overleaf immediately.**

What if I see redness or swelling, or have pain around the port site?

Redness, swelling or pain around the port site needle could mean that the needle has moved and the drug is being pumped into the surrounding skin. If you suspect this may have happened:

1. Close the clamp which is on the line (this will stop any more of the drug going in).
2. **Contact Mount Vernon Cancer Centre or Lister Hospital using the numbers overleaf immediately.**

What if the drug is spilled?

If the needle which was inserted into your port has come out, the chemotherapy drug could spill onto your skin, clothing, floor or furnishings. **Follow the instructions below and contact Mount Vernon Cancer Centre or Lister Hospital using the numbers overleaf 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 (eg kitchen roll) in a ring around the spill to contain it.
3. Soak up the fluid with more towels until the towels are moist but not dripping and put the used towels in the chemotherapy waste bag you were given (or bag without holes in).
4. Continue until all the spillage has been cleared.

- Pick up the towels around the spill and dispose of them in the same way.
- Working from the outside in, wash the area with lots of soapy water and dry well.
- Dispose of everything you have used in the chemotherapy waste bag (or bag without holes in) and tie the top of the bag.
- Take the bag to the unit treating you as soon as you can.

Spillage onto furnishings

Treat as above, washing the area thoroughly with cool soapy water, then rinse and repeat.

Spillage on clothing/bed linen

Clothing and/or bed linen must be treated immediately. Ask for advice if this is not possible.

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

How do I know if the infusor is working?

Your infusor is a clear plastic bottle containing a balloon filled with liquid. 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.



What do I do if my medication does not infuse?

- If your central venous catheter has a clamp on it, check this is open.
- Remember the liquid flows very slowly. You may only notice a change in the size of the balloon after 6-8 hours.

- If the medication is still not flowing, contact the hospital as soon as possible.

What should I do if the infusor leaks or bursts?

- Put on the supplied disposable gloves and close the **clamp** on the line.
- Disconnect the infusor from the bung at the end of the port tubing. 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.
- Place the disconnected infusor into the chemotherapy waste bag that was given to you at the start of your treatment (or bag without holes in). Tie the bag to seal it.
- Notify the hospital straight away by telephoning the **Mount Vernon Cancer Centre 24 hour Acute Oncology Service on 07825 028855 or Lister Hospital 07827 823509 (9am-5pm)**. Bring the infusor back to the hospital in the sealed bag as soon as you can. **Do not throw it away.**
- You will **also need** to attend the hospital to have the needle removed from your port and for your port to be flushed.

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.

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

Lister Hospital (9am-5pm)
07825 028855