

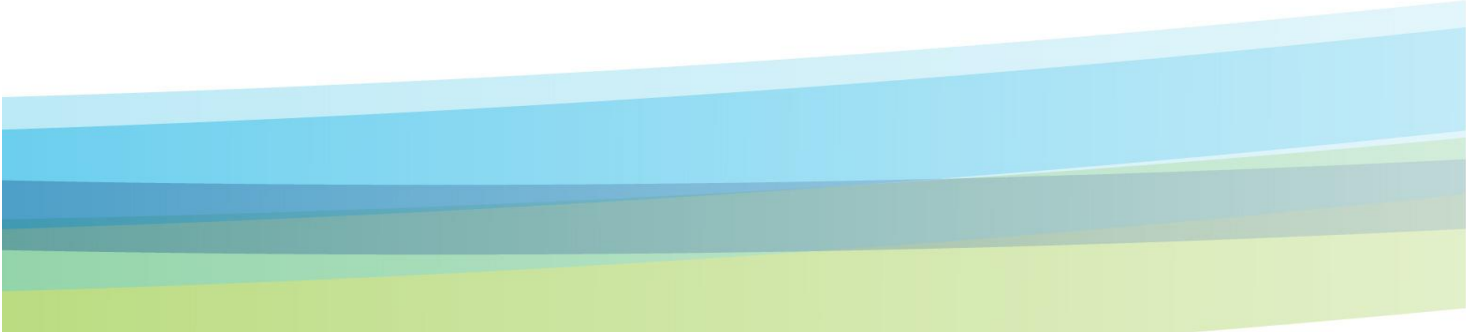


**Trillium
Health Partners**
Better Together

Using a Chemotherapy Infusor System at Home: What you need to know



In this pamphlet, you will learn:

- ✓ The parts of a chemotherapy infusor system
 - ✓ To make sure the infusor system is working by looking at the balloon, clamp, tubing and white connector
 - ✓ How to position your infusor system during the day and while sleeping
 - ✓ Why it is important to keep the infusor system away from water, very hot or cold temperatures, and sunlight
 - ✓ What to do if there is a chemotherapy leak or spill
 - ✓ When to use the numbers at the back of this pamphlet to get help
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What are the parts of a chemotherapy infusor system?

The parts of the chemotherapy infusor system are:

1. White Connector

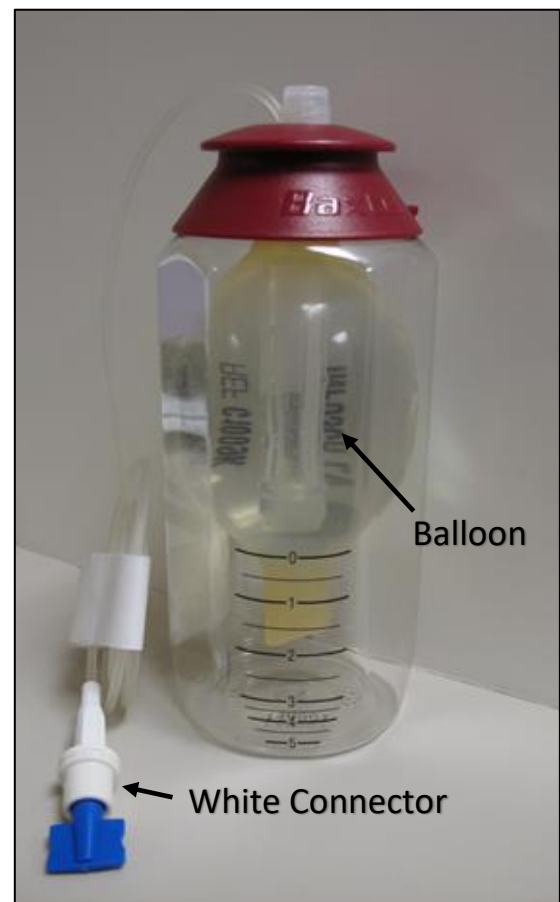
This part is taped to your skin. **It should always be touching your skin.**

The white connector does 2 things:

- Controls how fast you get the chemotherapy
- Uses your body heat to help the flow of the chemotherapy

2. Balloon

The balloon holds the chemotherapy, and delivers it slowly into the tubing.



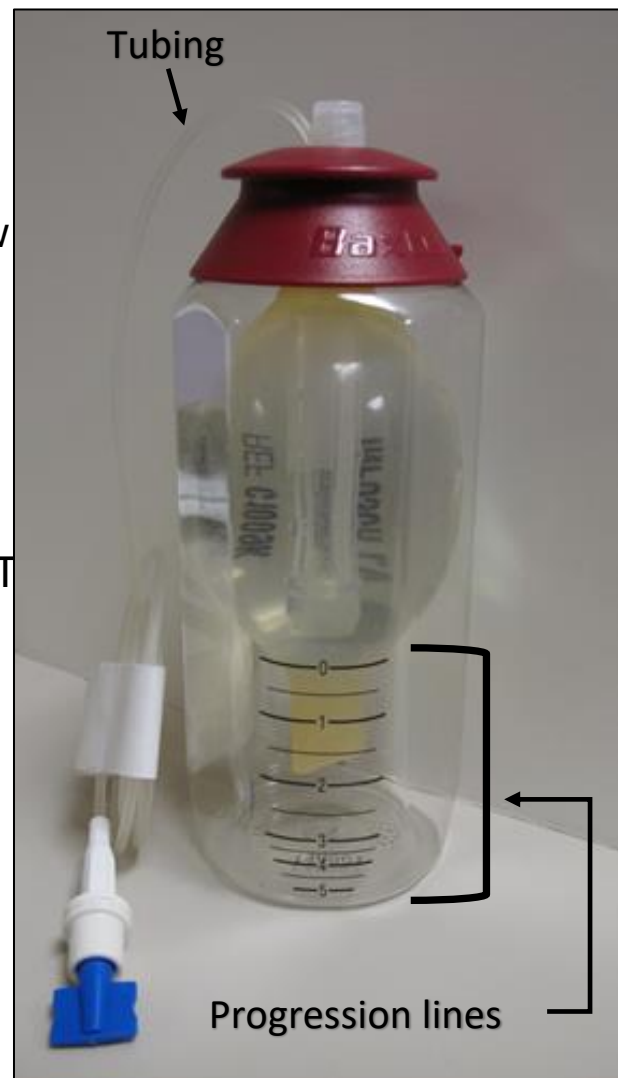
Chemotherapy Infusor
System

3. Progression Lines

The progression lines are the numbered lines on the side of the bottle. They can help you see how much of the chemotherapy you have gotten.

4. Tubing

The tubing connects to your PORT or PICC. The balloon will slowly deliver chemotherapy through the tubing.



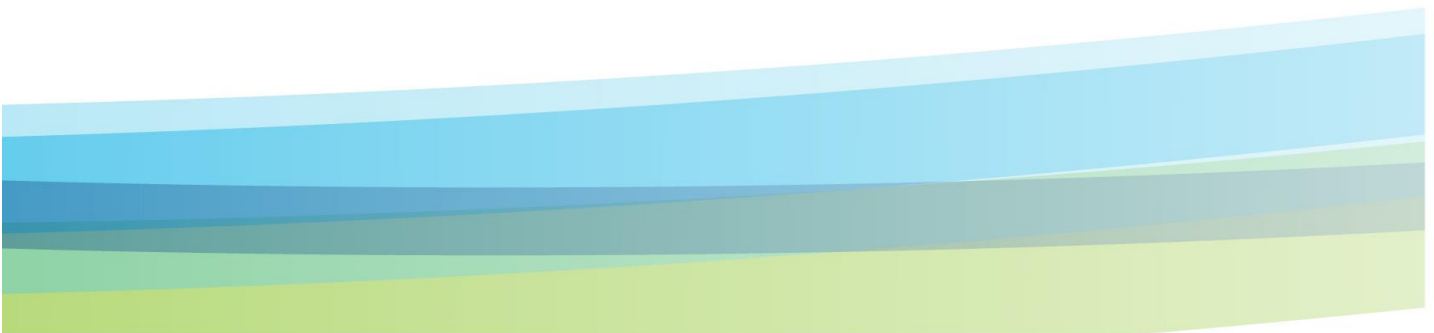
How long will my infusor system take to empty?

Your infusor system will empty over:

- 24 hours (1 day)
- 46 - 48 hours (2 days)
- 5 days
- 7 days
- Other: _____.



How to Make Sure the Infusor System is Working well



What can I do to make sure the infusor system works well?

When you can, try to keep your infusor system at about the same height as the white connector.

- This prevents the system from sending chemotherapy into your body (infusing) too fast or too slow.

It is also okay to buy a 'waist pouch' or 'over-the-shoulder pouch' to carry your infusor system.



- The top of the infusor system should not be above your chest or far below your waist

A person wearing an 'over-the-shoulder pouch'.

Check your infusor system often.

Important Note: You do not need to check your chemotherapy infuser system overnight.

Please check that:

- The balloon is shrinking
- Clamp is open
- The tubes are not bent or leaking. Natural loops or coils are okay.
- The white connector is taped directly to your skin
 - If it comes off, tape it again to the same area.



The purple top (24 hour) infusor system:

Infusion start time: _____.

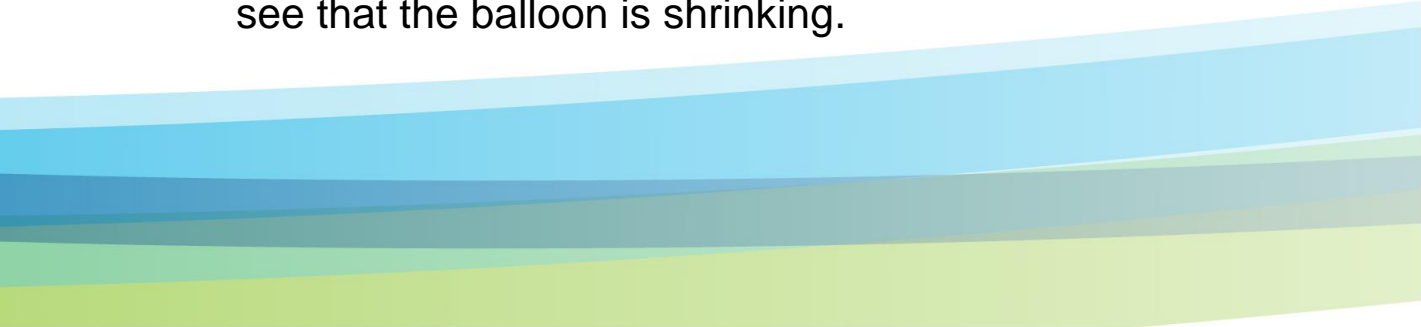
I should check my infusor every:

✓ 6-8 hours

I should check that:

- The balloon is shrinking
- Clamp is open
- The tubing is not bent
- The white connector is taped directly to my skin

How to know if the balloon is shrinking:

- The first time you check the balloon, you may not see a lot of change
 - You do not need to check overnight
 - You can use the progression lines on the bottle to help you see that the balloon is shrinking.
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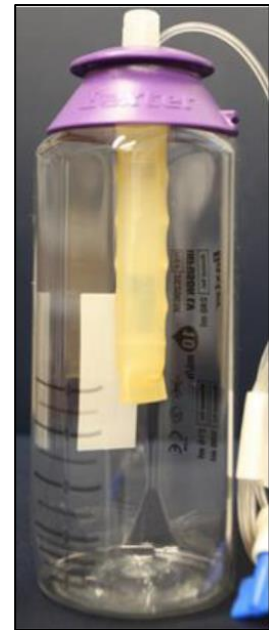
The pictures below show what the balloon may look like at different times. **They do not show what the balloon will look like every time you check.**



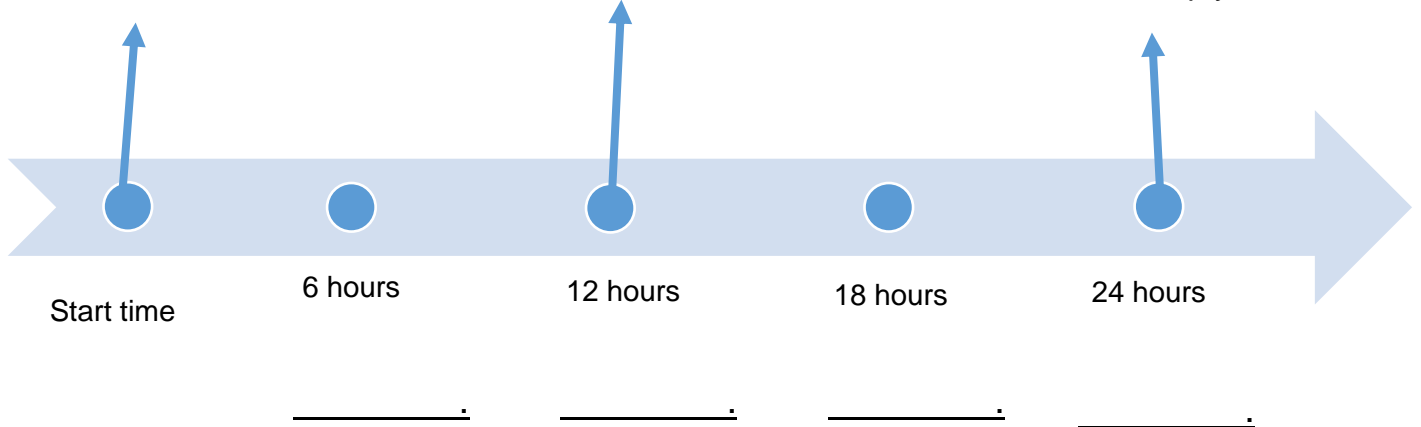
Balloon is full



Balloon is half full



Balloon is empty



The dark red top (46-48 hour) infusor system:

Infusion start time: _____.

I should check my infusor every:

✓ 6-8 hours

I should check that:

- The balloon is shrinking
- The clamp is open
- The tubing is not bent
- The white connector is taped directly to my skin

How to know if the balloon is shrinking:

- You may not see a lot of change the first time you check the balloon
- You do not need to check overnight
- You can use the progression lines on the bottle to help you see that the balloon is shrinking.

The pictures below show what the balloon may look like at different times. **They do not show what the balloon will look like every time you check.**



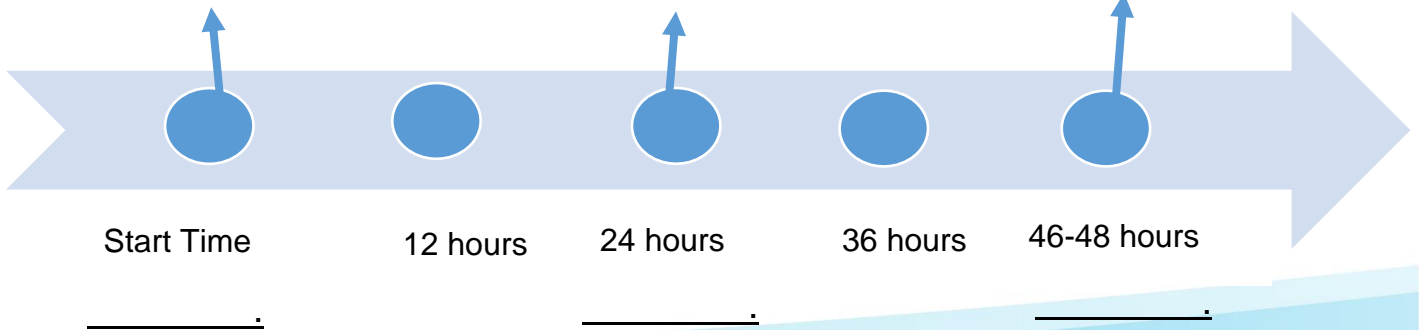
Balloon is full



Balloon is half full



Balloon is empty



The **pink top** (5 to 8 day) infusor system:

My infusor is a:

✓ _____ **day** infuser

I should check my infusor:

One time per day (example: every morning)

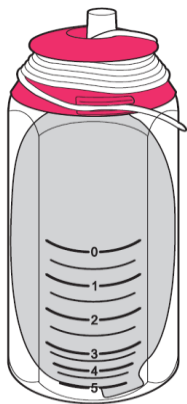
- Check that the balloon is shrinking

Every 6-8 hours

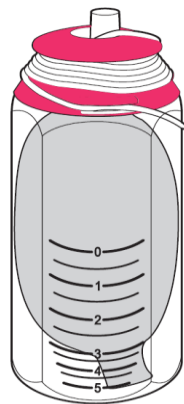
- The clamp is open
- The tubing is not bent
- The white connector is taped directly to my skin

You may not see a lot of change the first time you check the bottle.

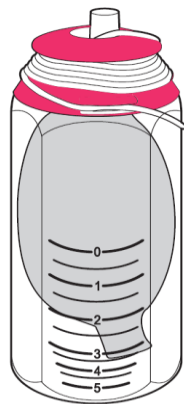
If you are getting your chemotherapy **over 7 days**, the pictures below shown an example of what your infusor system may look like on each day. **These pictures are a general guide only.** You can also use the progression lines on the bottle to help you see that the balloon is shrinking.



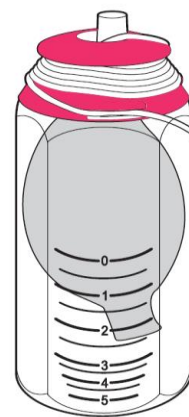
Day 1



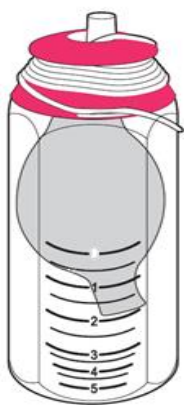
Day 2



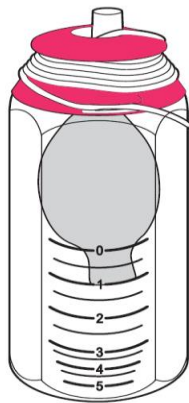
Day 3



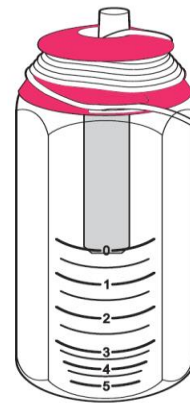
Day 4



Day 5



Day 6



Day 7

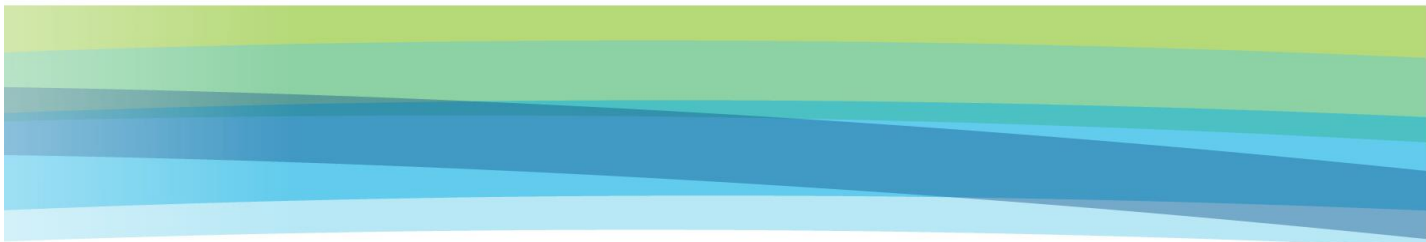
To help you check your infusor system, you can make a chart on a separate piece of paper.

Time:	What to check:
Example: 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Balloon is shrinking ✓ Clamp is open ✓ Tubing is not bent ✓ White connector is taped to my skin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Balloon is shrinking <input type="checkbox"/> Clamp is open <input type="checkbox"/> Tubing is not bent <input type="checkbox"/> White connector is taped to my skin

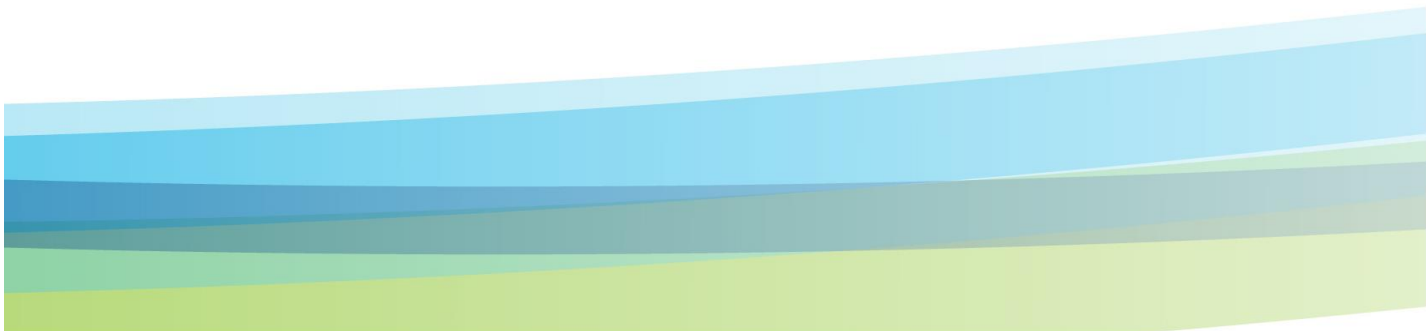


In the left column, write down times that you checked the infusor system.

In the right column, make a list of things to check.



How to Care for my Infusor System



How should I care for the infusor system?



Created by ProSymbols
from Noun Project

© ProSymbols

Keep the infusor system, and your PICC or PORT site dry.

- Take a bath instead of a shower
- When taking a bath, keep the infusor system in a pouch
- When taking a bath, place the infusor system on a flat surface (example: table, chair, stool) outside of the bath.
Make sure the flat surface is not higher or lower than your PICC or PORT site.
- To prevent an infection, cover your PICC or PORT site with plastic wrap.



Created by ProSymbols
from Noun Project

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Keep your infusor away from extreme heat or cold.

It is important to **keep your infusor system at normal room temperature**. Very hot or very cold temperatures can cause the chemotherapy to go into your body more slowly or more quickly than it should. To prevent this:

- In cold weather, make sure the infusor system is under your coat.
- If you go outside with the infuser system, **protect the bottle from sunlight**. For example, you can put the infuser system in a pouch.
- If it is very hot or very cold outside, spend less time outside with your infusor system.
- Keep the infusor system away from saunas, the oven or stove, heat/air conditioning vents or radiators.


Sleep with the infusor system at the same level as your PICC or PORT.

Place the infusor system close to you.

For example: you can put it under your pillow, next to your chest, or next to your belly or waist.



Person with infusor system sleeping on their back.



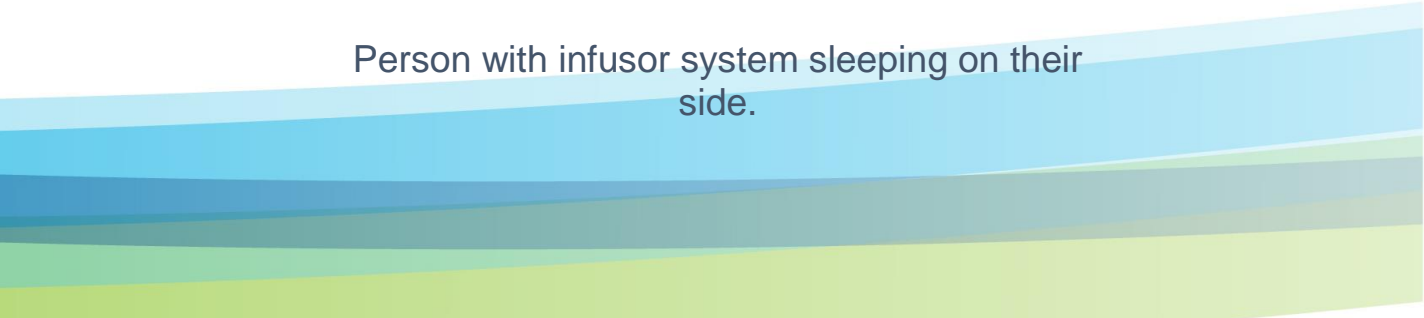
If you are sleeping on your side, make sure you don't bend or kink the tubing.

Keep the bottle on the same side that you are sleeping on. This will prevent the infusor system from tugging on your PICC or PORT.

If you have more questions about how to sleep with the infusor system, talk to your cancer doctor or nurse.

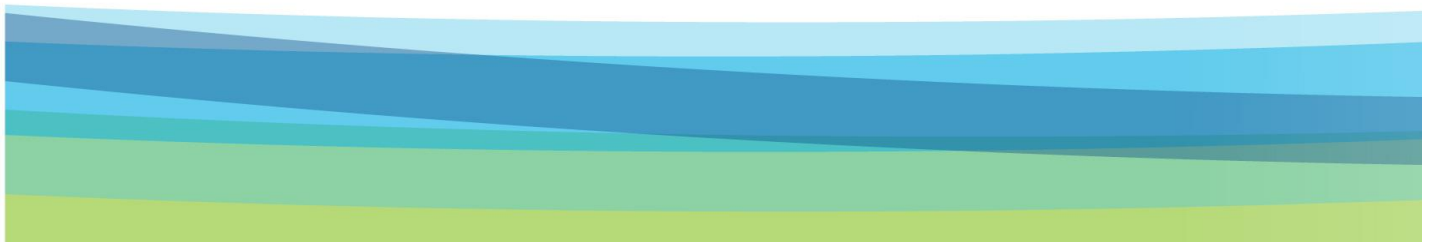
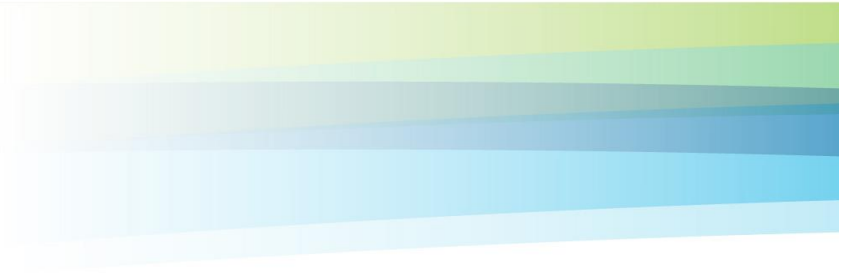


Person with infusor system sleeping on their side.





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Spills, Emergencies and When to get Help





What do I do if the infusor system leaks or bursts?

A chemotherapy leak or spill chemotherapy can be harmful to you and those near you.

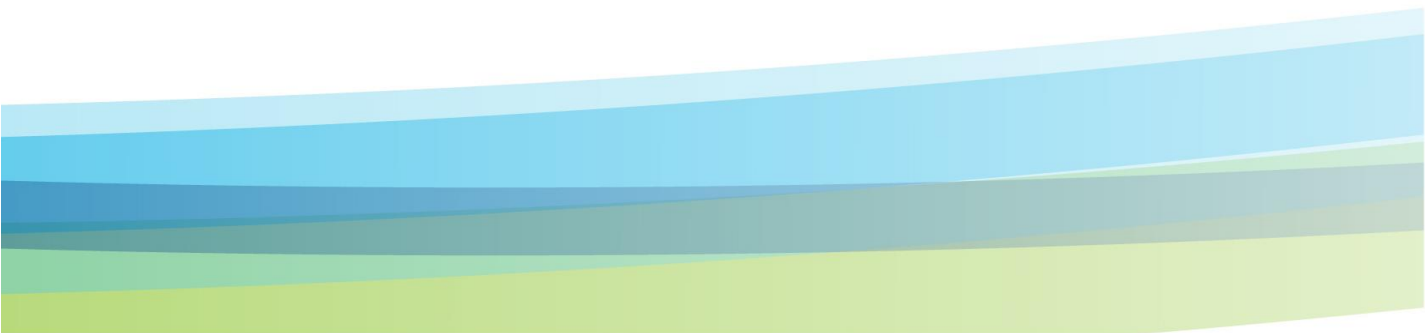


If the infusor system leaks or bursts, clean up any spills right away.

Created by ProSymbols
from Noun Project

Use the spill kit that your treatment nurse gave you.

Inside the spill kit, there is a booklet called “**Chemotherapy Spill or Leak Handling Instructions for Home**”. Follow the instructions in that booklet to clean up the spill safely.



What do I do if my infusor system does not empty?

Remember that the infusor system flows slowly.

If the balloon in the infusor system is not shrinking, call one of the phone numbers at the back of this pamphlet.

What happens when I have received all of the medication in the infusor system?

You will get an appointment to have a nurse in the community disconnect the infusor system.

This nurse may come to your house to disconnect your infusor system. If you live near a Home and Community Care Support Services clinic, you may need to go to that clinic to have your infusor system disconnected.

Important Note:

This resource was created by the Trillium Health Partners Cancer Centre to give patients, families and caregivers general information about using a chemotherapy infusor system at home. The information in this resource does not replace medical advice. Every effort has been made to ensure information in this resource is complete, correct and up-to-date but no guarantee is made to that effect. If you have any questions or concerns about the information in this resource, please talk to your healthcare team.

Updated: Dec. 2021

References:

1. Adapted with permission from “Your 7 Day Infusor Pump” (2019), University Health Network Patient Education & Engagement.
2. Adapted with permission from Scarborough Health Network, “Cancer Treatment with an Infusor® Bottle” (2020, June) series
3. “Your Infusor Pump for Chemotherapy” (2015), Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton Health Sciences.
4. “Warning” by ProSymbols, US (retrieved from: <https://thenounproject.com/search/?q=warning&i=800000>)

If you see or have any of the following, please get medical help.

- Redness, pain or swelling at your PICC or PORT
- A leak at any of the following spots:
 - The connector site
 - Anywhere in the bottle
 - The tubing, or
 - Your PICC or PORT
- Your infusor system is not emptying

To get medical help **during the day**, call **REACT**:

Telephone: 905-813-4412

Hours: Monday to Friday (8:00 am to 3:00 pm)

To get medical help **in the evening, on the weekend or on holidays**, use **CareChart**:

Call 1-877-681-3057 | **Have a video call at** www.carechart.ca

Hours: Monday to Friday (4:00 pm to 8:30 am)

Weekends and Statutory Holidays (24 hours)



Credit Valley Hospital
2200 Eglinton Avenue West
Mississauga ON L5M 2N1
T: (905) 813-2200

Mississauga Hospital
100 Queensway West
Mississauga ON L5B 1B8
T: (905) 848-7100

Queensway Health Centre
150 Sherway Drive
Toronto ON M9C 1A5
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