

Getting Chemotherapy by an Infusor[®] Infusion Pump

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What is an Infusor[®] infusion pump?

An Infusor[®] infusion pump is a disposable pump that gives you chemotherapy at home. It is made of very hard plastic and looks like a baby bottle. Inside the bottle there is a balloon that holds the chemotherapy.

What types of drugs can be given by an infusion pump?

Many different medications can be given safely by an infusion pump in your home, including chemotherapy.

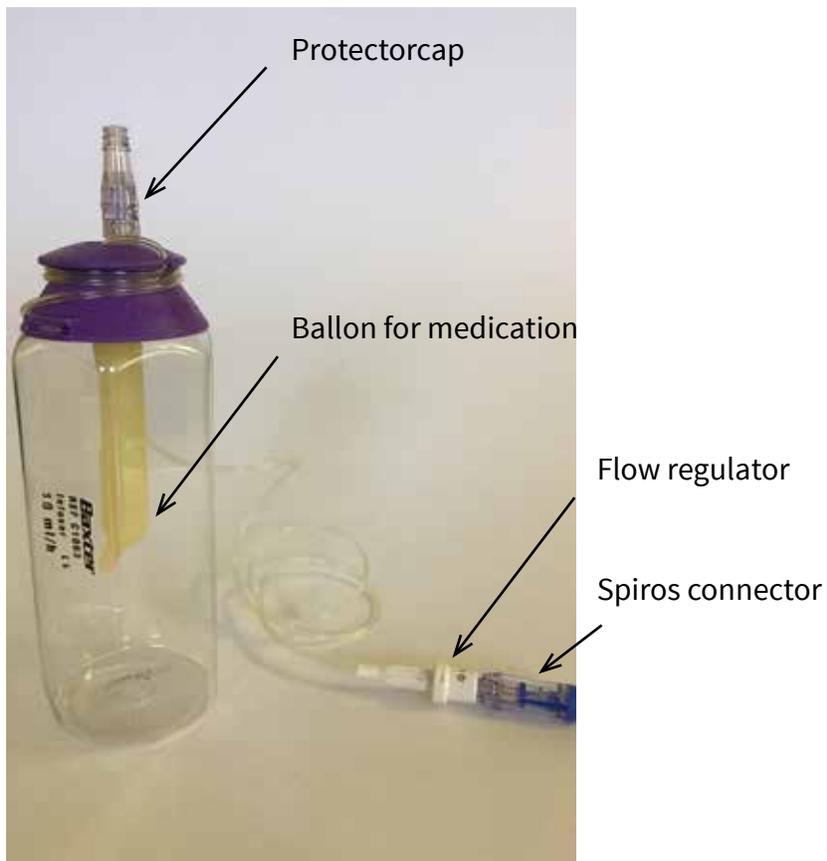
How does the infusion pump work?

The pharmacist chooses a pump that will give you your chemotherapy over a specific time period, called an infusion rate. The balloon is filled with your chemotherapy.

The balloon gently pushes the chemotherapy through the tubing into your IV. The small white section on the tubing is called a 'flow regulator'. It controls how fast your chemotherapy comes out. Keep it taped against your skin at all times.



The infusion pump has several parts:



Do I still have to come to the hospital?

Yes, you will have to come to the hospital to have your infusion started. A nurse will start your IV and connect the pump. You may then go home. You will be told when to come back to the hospital to have the pump changed or removed.

How do I carry the pump?

- Carry the pump at waist level.
- Many people carry their pump in a bag or purse around their waist or over their shoulder.
- The pump will run in any position, including upside-down or sideways.
- Keep the pump out of direct sunlight, heat, or cold.

How do I take care of the pump?

- Keep the pump at room temperature. It runs faster if it gets warmer and slower if it gets colder. If you are outside in cold weather, keep the infusion pump close to your body.
- Always keep the flow regulator taped to your skin.
- Make sure that the tubing is not kinked (bent) and that the clamps on your port-a-cath are open
- Check the balloon inside of the pump 2-3 times each day. The balloon should get smaller over time
- While having an infusion you may do your regular activities, such as walking, driving a car, eating.
- Do not play contact sports.

Can I bathe or shower with the pump?

Yes, but it is best to keep the pump out of the water. Put the pump on a chair next to the tub or shower when you are bathing or showering.

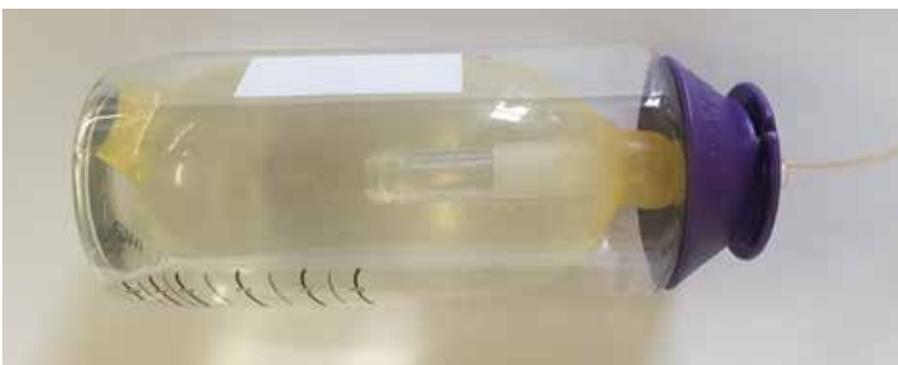
Always tape dry, clean plastic wrap or a plastic bag over the regulator and central venous access device (CVAD) before showering or bathing. Remove the plastic wrap after you have dried yourself off.

How will I know when the pump is empty?

When the balloon inside the bottle is empty, you will be able to see small bumps on the stem. The tail of the balloon will be at the zero mark when empty.



Empty



Full

You may be taught how to disconnect your pump at home.

Or you will be given an appointment to have your pump removed at the hospital.

What if I need help with the pump at home?

Most patients have no problems with the infusion pump.

If you have questions about the pump, call the hospital:

What should I do if:

I think the pump is not running:

- Check to see that the tubing is not kinked or bent.
- Check to see that the clamps are open.
- Call the hospital for instructions
- If this happens in the evening or on a weekend go to the closest Emergency Department.

The pump leaks:

- Stop the infusion by closing the clamp on your port-a-cath or pinch the tubing, keep it pinched with an elastic band.
- Place the pump in a plastic bag.
- If any of the medication has touched your skin, wash your skin right away with soapy water.
- Follow the instructions in the Chemo Spill Kit you were given.
- Call the hospital for more instructions.
- If this happens in the evening or on a weekend go to the closest Emergency Department.

Looking for more health information?

Find this brochure and all our patient resources here: <http://library.nshealth.ca/PatientGuides>
Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.
For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

*Nova Scotia Health Authority promotes a smoke-free, vape-free, and scent-free environment.
Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!*

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