

# Information for patients and families



Walker Family Cancer Centre

## Your Infusor Pump for Chemotherapy

You will be going home with *chemotherapy* (chemo) running through a bottle called an INFUSOR pump. The INFUSOR is a very hard plastic bottle about the size of a baby bottle. Inside the bottle there is a balloon which holds the chemo. The balloon gently pushes the chemo through the tubing into your PICC or Port.



**It is important to tell all health care providers you see that you have chemo infusing (Emergency, ambulance or other doctors)**

### **The day of your Chemo, the RN will:**

- Access your PICC or Port
- Attach the INFUSOR pump to the PICC or Port, and tape it in place
- Instruct you on how to manage the chemo infusion at home

You will be supplied with a carry bag that has a strap on it. This bag can be worn on the inside or outside of your clothing. It will run in any position as long as the tubing is not kinked or clamped off. It should be worn at or above waist level with the tubing taped against your skin at all times.

CCAC will provide a hard plastic container labelled Cytotoxic to dispose of chemo waste and a Chemo spill kit. The spill kit must be with you when the INFUSOR bottle is running. You don't have to carry it on you, but it needs to be close by in case you need it.

### **Frequently asked questions:**

1. How do I shower/ bathe with the INFUSOR on?
  - Remove the INFUSOR from the carry-bag and place it on the ledge of bathtub. The INFUSOR can get wet, but is not water proof. Do not let it go under the water.
2. What do I do with the INFUSOR when I go to sleep?
  - Keep the INFUSOR at the same level as your Port or PICC. Do not put the INFUSOR anywhere extremely low or high, on the floor or on a ledge above your head.
  - Tuck it under your pillow, **or**  
Place the carry-bag strap around your neck and tuck it under your night shirt

## How do I know the INFUSOR is working?

The pump pushes the chemo in very slowly. For a few hours you may not see a change in the size of the balloon. Your nurse will show you how to check to see if the balloon is getting smaller. You should check the balloon 3 times a day – breakfast, lunch and dinner. At the same time you should also check that there are no kinks in the tubing and that the clamp is open.



**INFUSOR Half Full**



**INFUSOR Empty**

The INFUSOR is set to run over a specific time. **Your** chemo will run over:

- Burgundy top: 2 days (46hours). (Call clinic if it finishes more than 5 hours early or late)
- Yellow top:
  - 4 days = 96 hours (Call clinic if it finishes more than 10 hours early or late)
  - 5 days = 120 hours (Call clinic if it finishes more than 12 hours early or late)
- Pink top:
  - 6 days = 144 hours (Call clinic if it finishes more than 15 hours early or late)
  - 7 days = 168 hours (Call clinic if it finishes more than 17 hours early or late)
  - 8 days = 192 hours (Call clinic if it finishes more than 19 hours early or late)

## CAUTION

**Do not** expose the INFUSOR to extreme temperatures. Electric blankets, heating pads, direct sunlight, or ice packs could change the rate of the infusion. When cooking by the stove or barbequing, move the INFUSOR bag around to your back, away from the heat source.

## **What do I do when the INFUSOR is empty?**

CCAC will disconnect your INFUSOR when it is finished. Arrangements will be made for you to go to the CCAC clinic in your area, **or** a home care nurse will come to your house.

In some cases you may have an appointment in the Chemo room to have the INFUSOR disconnected, or exchanged for the next one.

**NOTE:** Even when the INFUSOR is complete and looks empty it may have about 1 teaspoon of chemo left in it.

## **TROUBLESHOOTING**

### **What if the INFUSOR is not infusing?**

If the INFUSOR does not appear to be working, check that the clamp is open and the line is not kinked. If the line is kinked, straighten the tubing. If the clamp is closed, open the clamp. If you still think the INFUSOR is not working then call the Oncology clinic during clinic hours. After hours, call CCAC for help solving the problem.

### **What if I have pain or swelling where the chemo is entering my body?**

- **If you have a Port:** This pain or swelling may be due to the needle having moved out of your PORT. Immediately stop the infusion by closing the clamp on the INFUSOR tubing. Call the Oncology clinic during clinic hours. After hours, call CCAC. A nurse will need to assess the site.
- **If you have a PICC:** This pain or swelling may be due to an infection or irritation of the skin around the PICC line, not from the chemo. Call CCAC. A nurse will need to assess the site.

### **What will I see if the INFUSOR leaks, bursts or becomes disconnected?**

- The area around your PICC or PORT site may be wet or have dry white powder on it
- Your clothes near the INFUSOR may be wet
- The chemo INFUSOR bottle or the carry-bag may be wet

## SPILL CLEAN UP

**What do I do if I notice my INFUSOR bottle is cracked, leaking or the balloon has burst?**

- ✓ Open the spill kit and put on **two** pairs of gloves



- ✓ Immediately close the clamp near your PICC or PORT



- ✓ Put the INFUSOR into a re-sealable bag, seal the bag around INFUSOR tubing as best you can



- ✓ Put the bagged INFUSOR into a **second** sealable bag, seal the second bag around tubing as best you can. **Do Not** disconnect the tubing from your PICC/PORT

- ✓ Remove your gloves and place into another re-sealable bag, seal and discard into the hard plastic Cytotoxic container
- ✓ Wash your hands



- ✓ Call the Oncology clinic during clinic hours

**OR**

After clinic hours, call CCAC. A CCAC nurse will come to dispose of the INFUSOR and flush your PICC or PORT

**THEN**

Write down what time this happened **and** Call the Oncology clinic during next clinic hours for further instructions.

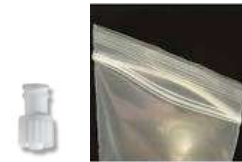


**What do I do if the INFUSOR is disconnected from the tubing OR the tubing is disconnected from my PICC or PORT?**

- ✓ Immediately close the clamp near your PICC or PORT
- ✓ Open the spill kit and put on the gown, goggles, mask and **two** pairs of gloves
- ✓ Cap the INFUSOR tubing with white cap. Put the INFUSOR into a re-sealable bag, seal the bag. Put the bagged INFUSOR into a **second** re-sealable bag, seal that bag
- ✓ Discard the bagged INFUSOR in the hard plastic Cytotoxic container



2 x



2 x



- ✓ If chemo has leaked on any other surface, use the spill kit's absorb pads to soak it up
- ✓ Put all of the pads into the plastic bag in the spill kit
- ✓ Wash the surfaces with soap and water. Put all cloths used into the plastic bag with pads
- ✓ Close this bag and place into a second bag



2 x

**BAG**

**ADD**



- ✓ Call the Oncology clinic during clinic hours  
**OR**  
After clinic hours, call CCAC to flush your PICC or PORT

**THEN**

Call the Oncology clinic during next clinic hours for further instructions



## **What if I get chemo on my skin?**

DO NOT touch the chemo with your bare hands. If you get chemo on your skin wash the area with warm soapy water for 15 minutes.

## **What if I get chemo in my eyes?**

If any chemo splashes in your eyes flush the eye with luke-warm tap water for 15 minutes and contact your family doctor.

## **OTHER SAFETY TIPS**

- Wash your hands with soap and water for 2 minutes, rinse and then dry (even if you have worn gloves), before and after contact with the INFUSOR (even if there are no leaks)
- Do not let Children touch the INFUSOR
- Keep the hard plastic Cytotoxic container out of reach of children

## **Call If:**

- Your INFUSOR pump is not infusing after you have tried to fix it
- You see blood in the tubing
- You have pain, swelling or redness at your infusion site
- Your dressing becomes wet or damp
- You have had a leak, or the INFUSOR bladder (balloon) has burst inside the pump, or the pump has become disconnected

**Oncology Clinic Telephone Number: 905-682-6451**

**Clinic Hours: Mon – Fri 8:30AM – 4:30PM**

**(Closed Statutory Holidays)**

**After-hours Number: 905-685-8082**

**(After Hours/Holidays/Weekends)**



The information in this handout has been developed using resources from Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, and Cancer Care Ontario. Photographs are courtesy of Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre.  
Revised April 2016

