Systemic Therapy Treatment with an Infuser Device

This handout will give you information about getting your systemic therapy treatment with an infuser device. It is important that you know how the infuser device works and how to look after it.

**What is an infuser device?**

An infuser device is a lightweight plastic bottle with plastic tubing attached. Inside the bottle is a balloon that has your systemic therapy medication.

**How does it work?**

When the tubing is connected to your intravenous line (Port-o-cath or PICC line) the balloon will deflate. This will let the medication move *slowly* through the tubing to your intravenous line. No batteries or pumps are needed for this to work. The infusion may be prescribed to run over a 24 hour period or for up to 8 days.

The infuser works best if it is at the level of your waist. *It should be carried in the waist pouch you were given.* It will run in any position (upside down or sideways).

It is important that you:

- Check the balloon at least twice daily to see that it is *deflating slowly* (see the picture of the infuser on the back of this page. This will show you how much of the medication you are to get).
- Keep the infuser in its carrying pouch where it won’t fall out.
- Check that all of the clamps are open and the tubing is not kinked.

**What you need to do when you have a bath**

You can have bath (not a shower) while you are wearing the infuser. Keep your Port-o-cath or PICC site dry. Keep the infuser in the waist pouch. Put it in a plastic bag and set it outside your bathtub. Do not disconnect or stop the infuser while you are in the bathtub.

**What you need to do if there is a leak or spill from the infuser:**

Systemic therapy is substance that can be harmful to you if it is not handled in the right way. You will receive a spill kit at your first systemic therapy treatment appointment. Read the handout in the spill kit: “Safety at Home If You Have a Systemic Therapy Treatment Spill”.

- Do not disconnect the tubing.
- Put the blue absorbent pad over the leak. Put the infuser inside a plastic bag and close up the bag.
- If any of your clothing has medication on it, take it off. Wash this clothing separate from other clothing.
- If any of your skin has medication on it, wash it with soapy water.
- Call your visiting nurse. If you are not being seen by a visiting nurse, come to the Cancer Centre or to the Emergency Department at Lakeridge Health Oshawa.
The Systemic Therapy Suite at the Cancer Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8am – 5pm. It is closed on weekends and holidays.

- You can call the Systemic Therapy Suite at 905-576-8711 extension 4030.
- After 5pm, please go to the Emergency Department at Lakeridge Health Oshawa. In the Emergency Department the nurse will look at the infusion site and device.

It is important to have a Spill Kit with you at all times while you have the infusion running.

What happens when you have received all of the medication in the infuser?
You will be given an appointment to be disconnected from the infuser bottle.

If your infuser is finished more than 8 hours before it should be, call the Cancer Centre. If this happens when the Cancer Centre is closed, go to the Emergency Department at Lakeridge Health Oshawa.

Diagram of infuser

Last Revised: February 2017