



Chemotherapy Infusor Pumps

A guide for patients and their carers.

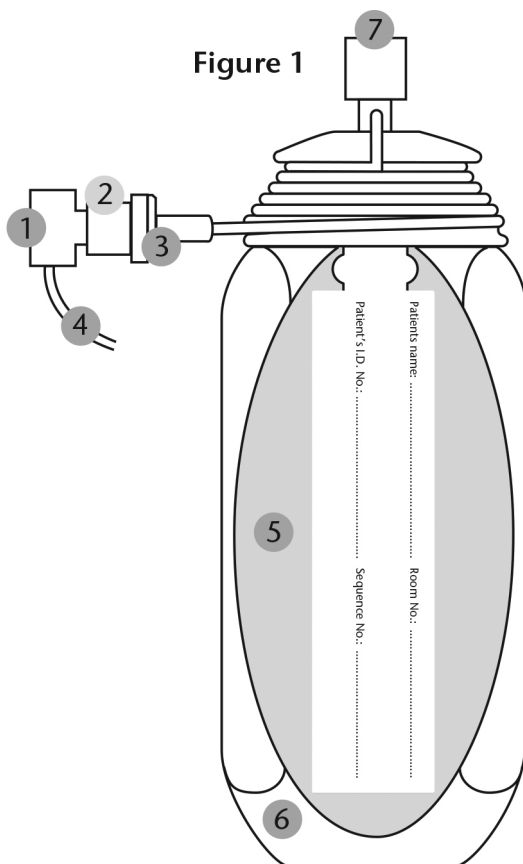


DIFFERENT TYPES OF INFUSOR PUMPS

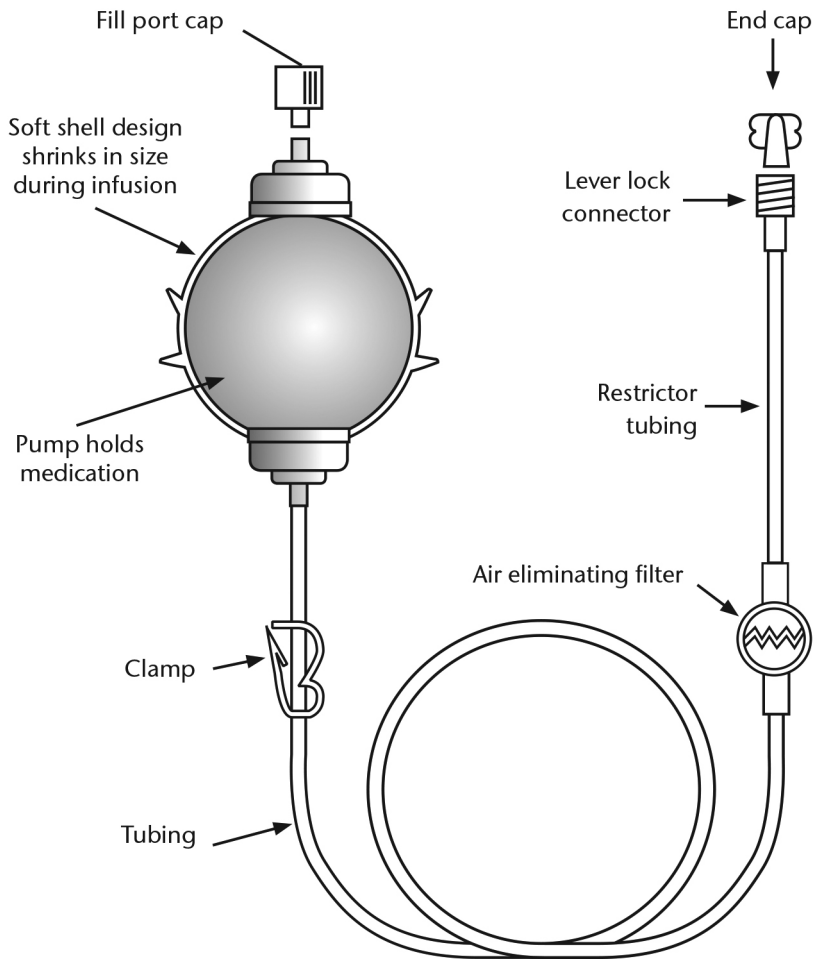
Baxter infusor pump

This is a lightweight, disposable pump containing chemotherapy. We use it to give a slow, continuous infusion into your bloodstream via a central venous catheter (Hickman Line), or peripherally inserted central venous catheter (PICC Line). This allows chemotherapy treatment to be given over two days using an infusor for home treatment. The chemotherapy is contained in a balloon reservoir inside a casing. No batteries are used in the infusor and it does not make any noise. (See Figure 1).

1. **Winged cap.**
2. **Connector** attaches the infusor to your central line.
3. **Flow restrictor** controls how fast your chemotherapy is given.
4. **Delivery tubing** carries the chemotherapy to your line.
5. **Balloon** holds the chemotherapy.
6. **Infusion scale** marks on outside of device showing how much chemotherapy has been given.
7. **End cap** seals and protects the infusor system.



Eclipse infusor pump



THE DAY UNIT NURSING STAFF

Staff will arrange for the district nurse to visit you at home to disconnect your infusor pump.

When filled with chemotherapy, the balloon will deflate and slowly push the chemotherapy up through the Hickman line or PICC line at a fixed rate. As this happens, the balloon gradually becomes smaller.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF AN INFUSOR PUMP?

You can have your treatment at home. This allows you to continue with your daily activities rather than having to stay overnight in hospital throughout your treatment.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF INFUSOR PUMPS?

The infusor can occasionally stop working or empty sooner than anticipated. These problems do not happen often but, if they do occur, you should contact the Chemotherapy Day Unit or contact treatment helpline for advice.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF AN EMPTY INFUSOR

When the district nurse has disconnected the empty infusor, they will wrap it in a plastic bag and secure the top. Place it in chemotherapy waste container and close securely. The container must be returned to the Day Unit at your next visit. Do not put the infusor in your refuse bin at home.

HOW DO YOU MONITOR YOUR INFUSOR?

You should look at the balloon or scale on the side of the infusor every morning and evening to make sure the infusor is working correctly. Your district nurse will disconnect the infusor on the agreed day, whether the infusor is empty or not. This makes sure your treatment cycle is on time. The Day Unit staff will arrange for the district nurse to arrange a time for disconnecting the infusor.

If the infusor empties before the district nurse's visit, switch off using the clamp on your Hickman or PICC line.

WHAT TO DO IF THE INFUSOR IS FAULTY OR LEAKY

In the unlikely event that your infusor is leaking, do not worry. Put on disposable gloves and wash away any chemotherapy that has spilled onto you or any surface with warm soapy water. For additional information, please refer to the NHS Lanarkshire Chemotherapy Safety at home leaflet. Put the infusor in a plastic bag and contact the Chemotherapy Day unit for further advice.

OTHER PATIENTS' QUESTIONS

How do I wear my infusor?

The infusor is supplied with a bag and a belt which you wear around your waist.

What do I do if I want to go away for a holiday?

You should discuss this with your doctor and your chemotherapy nurse. Your choice of holiday destination may be restricted, depending on the availability of medical care.

What do I do if the infusor runs out before my next clinic appointment?

Hickman/PICC line: If your infusor finishes/empties before your district nurse attends, just close the clamp off on your line and leave the infusor in place. Do not disconnect the infusor.

However, in the unlikely event that the infusor empties more than a day before your district nurse attends, please contact the Chemotherapy Day Unit for advice. See contact numbers at the end of this booklet.

Can I have a bath or a shower with the infusor?

If you normally take a shower you must not get the infusor wet. You can put it into a plastic bag and hang it up on the outside of your shower, away from the water.

If you normally have a bath, do not submerge your body under the water fully. You must remain in a sitting position so the bath water does not cover the Hickman line site. If you have a PICC line you will need to cover this area with cling film or a plastic bag to keep it dry. You may find it helpful to place the infusor on a chair at the side of the bath so that you have more movement with your line.

WEARING AN INFUSOR WHEN SLEEPING

Keep your infusor pump under your pillow to maintain an adequate flow rate when you go to bed.

DISCONNECTING THE INFUSOR

Please do not attempt to disconnect your infusor. Your district nurse will visit you and disconnect your infusor for you.

SIDE EFFECTS OF YOUR TREATMENT

The chemotherapy nurse will explain about using and wearing the infusor. They will also discuss any potential side effects with you.

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NHS Cancer Treatment Helpline
24 hour service
Telephone 0800 9177711

Hairmyres Day Unit
University Hospital Hairmyres
Telephone 01355 584540

Ward 15 Day Unit
University Hospital Monklands
Telephone 01698 753432

Medical/Oncology Day Unit
University Hospital Wishaw
Telephone 01698 366840



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NHS Lanarkshire General
Enquiry Line: 0300 30 30 243

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