

Iron Infusion

What is Iron?

Iron is a mineral that is part of the hemoglobin which carries oxygen in blood. Iron helps produce red blood cells. If your iron is low, you may have a low red blood cell count (called anemia). As a result, your blood carries less oxygen to the cells in your body. This can make you feel weak, tired and pale.

Who Should Receive Intravenous (IV) Iron Therapy?

You should receive IV iron therapy if you cannot tolerate or absorb oral iron, or if you have severe iron deficiency anemia, or at the discretion of your ordering primary care provider for other uses. Your primary care provider will determine your eligibility based on blood work.

What Forms of Iron Are Offered?

The two forms of iron offered are iron sucrose (Venofer) or iron isomaltoside (Monoferric).

What to Watch for

Common side effects include: low blood pressure (dizziness), headache, injection site swelling, chest discomfort, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, infusion reactions (fever, flushing, joint/muscle pain). **If you experience any side effects at any time, inform your nurse immediately to stop the infusion and inform your primary care provider.**

After you get IV iron, you will stay for 1 hour of observation to make sure you do not have an allergic reaction or a drop in your blood pressure. **If you have any serious reactions (chest pain, difficulty breathing, neck and mouth swelling) after leaving the clinic, call 911.**

How to Pay for Iron Therapy?

Iron sucrose (Venofer): Exceptional Access Program

Iron sucrose may be covered by the provincial government through the exceptional access program. Our Drug Access Facilitator will submit this request on your primary care provider's behalf and if needed, can help you apply to the Trillium Drug Program.

Iron isomaltoside (Monoferric): private insurance

Your private insurance provider may cover the cost of your IV iron therapy through your insurance plan. Our Drug Access Facilitator will communicate with your insurance provider to determine your coverage. Iron isomaltoside is not a benefit under the government program.

Contact Us:

Pharmacy Care Outpatient Pharmacy:

Level 2, Norman Building, Bluewater Health 89 Norman Street, Sarnia, Ontario N7T 6S3

Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

519-464-4400 (Pharmacy Care Ext. 5535; Drug Access Facilitator Ext. 5536; Ambulatory Care Ext. 4402)