

# Chemotherapy pumps

## Haematology/Oncology Department

### Patient Information Leaflet

#### Introduction

You have been given this leaflet as your doctor has suggested you would benefit from receiving chemotherapy at home, through a pump. It gives information on what a chemotherapy pump is, the benefits of it and looking after the pump.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Georgina Unit.

#### What is a chemotherapy pump?

Chemotherapy pumps are sometimes also called infusion pumps or ambulatory infusions.

The pump is a small device that is used to give chemotherapy while you are at home. It means that you can go home and still receive your treatment rather than have to stay in hospital for long periods of time. It is a non-electric medication pump that delivers treatment through clear plastic tubing into the end of a central venous catheter ('Hickman' line).

The chemotherapy medication is held in a container called an elastomeric balloon. You can see this through the clear plastic bottle. You can carry this bottle in a belt holster or bag that we will give you.

## What are the benefits of a chemotherapy pump?

If you have your treatment through a chemotherapy pump, it means that you can go home and still safely receive your treatment, rather than have to stay in hospital for long periods of time.

## How do I look after the pump?

It is important to check the small clamp on your central venous line, to make sure that it is in the 'open' position when your pump is attached (please see figure 1).

**Please remember to  
check clamp is open  
both morning and  
evening**

Clamp open



Figure 1 shows the clamp on a central venous line

The nurse will open the clamp for you when he/she connects the chemotherapy pump to your line, before you leave the chemotherapy unit. If when you get home, you notice that the clamp is closed, you should contact the Georgina Unit Triage helpline for advice:

01384 244028 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

or

01384 244235 or 01384 244251 (at all other times)

It is also important to you look at the balloon containing the chemotherapy twice a day to make sure that it is emptying (please see figure 2). If it does not appear to be emptying, contact the Georgina Unit Triage helpline for advice:

01384 244028 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

or

01384 244235 or 01384 244251 (at all other times)

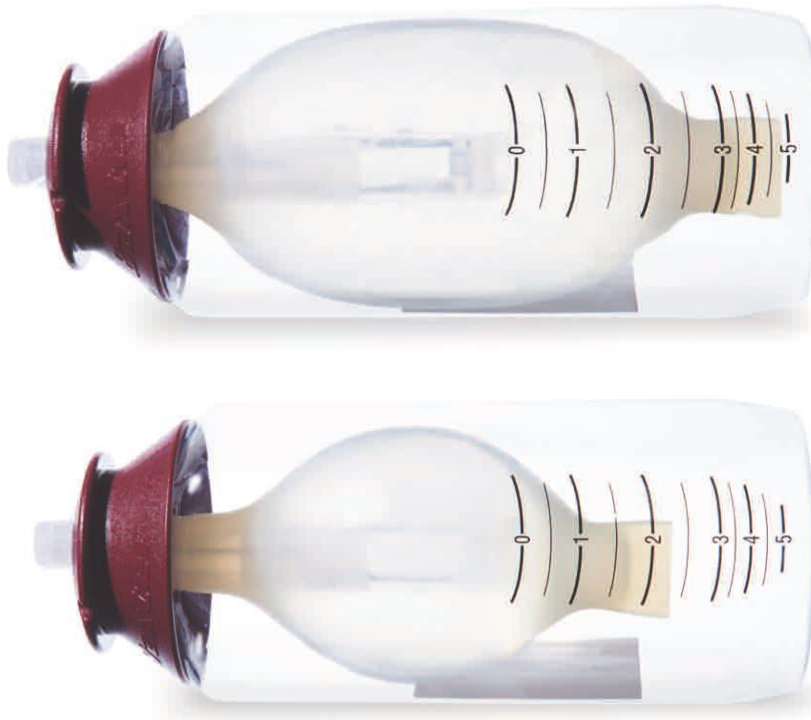


Figure 2

1. The top image shows the balloon half full of chemotherapy medication.
2. The bottom image shows the balloon is nearly empty.

(Images courtesy of Baxter Corporation)

### **Are there any restrictions on what I can do?**

It is safe to exercise with the chemotherapy pump as long as the chemotherapy medication remains close to room temperature and is not exposed to water.

The device is safe to use around pets or small children, but ensure that it is protected from chewing and playing.

For sleeping, we advise you to either place the device under your pillow or on a bedside cabinet, at approximately the same level as your chest.

## **Can I have a bath or shower while the chemotherapy pump is attached?**

It is safe to have a bath or shower. However:

- If you have a bath, the pump must not go under the water so put it onto a flat surface outside the bath.
- If you have a shower, do not put the pump under a direct stream of water. Put it in a small, sealed plastic bag while you are in the shower.

## **What if my chemotherapy pump comes off?**

We will give you a home spillage kit when your treatment starts. There are instructions and equipment within the kit to help you to pick up the chemotherapy pump safely. This will allow you to return it to the chemotherapy unit for safe disposal.

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

C4 Georgina Unit on:

01384 244028 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

or

01384 244235 or 01384 244251 (at all other times)

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number:

01384 456111

**This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:**

<http://dudleygroup.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/oncology/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email [patient.information@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@dgh.nhs.uk)

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.**

للحصول على هذه النشرة بحجم أكبر، وعلى شكل إصدار صوتي و بلغات أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بالرقم 08000730510.

此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru vă rugăm să sunați la 0800 073 0510.

یہ کتابچہ آپ کو بڑے حروف کی لکھائی، سمعی صورت اور دیگر زبانوں میں مہیا کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ برائے مہربانی فون نمبر 08000730510 پر رابطہ کریں۔