

Care Instructions After an Infusion Reaction

During your visit today, you had an infusion hypersensitivity or allergic reaction. This is an extreme response from your immune system to the medication you received.

- Symptoms can range from mild to life-threatening. Some people only have a mild rash, hives, itching or abdominal discomfort.
- In some severe reactions, symptoms like swelling of the tongue and throat can make it difficult to breathe.
- It is possible some of your symptoms will return, or you can develop new symptoms, anytime over the next few days after your treatment.

Follow-up care after an infusion reaction is important for your treatment and safety. Be sure to read through this document to learn about the symptoms you might experience and what to do if you have them. Go to your scheduled follow-up appointments and call your doctor's office if you are having any problems between your appointments.

How can I care for myself at home after an infusion reaction?

- For your safety, avoid dangerous activities and things that require coordination or deep concentration (such as driving or big decision-making) if you received any medications such as diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) or epinephrine (EpiPen®).
 - If you are unsure which medications you received, check the after visit summary (AVS) we gave you before you left your appointment.
- Do not scratch your skin. To relieve itching, put a cold, moist towel on your skin or take a cool bath. You can put an ice pack on the itchy area for 10-15 minutes at a time. Place a thin cloth between the ice pack and

your skin for protection. Do not take hot baths or showers, as they will make the itching worse.

- If your doctor tells you to, you can take an over-the-counter (non-prescription) allergy medication. Read and follow all directions on the label. Some allergy medications can make you sleepy, so avoid dangerous activities and things that require coordination or deep concentration while taking these medicines.

When should I call for help?

Call 911 if you think you need emergency care or if you experience any of the following symptoms, as they can be serious:

- Swelling of the throat, mouth, lips, or tongue
- Sudden raised, red areas (hives) that quickly spread all over your body
- Passing out (fainting or losing consciousness) or feeling dizzy
- Suddenly feeling weak, confused, or restless
- Trouble breathing
- Chest pain

Call your doctor now or seek immediate medical care if you have symptoms of an allergic reaction, such as:

- Hives (raised, red areas on the skin) that do not cover your entire body
- A rash
- Itching that will not go away
- Swelling
- Mild stomach pain or nausea
- Vomiting that does not stop

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