

Infusing Home Chemotherapy with a Balloon System: C-Series

How will I infuse my chemotherapy at home?

You will receive your home chemotherapy with a Non-Electronic Balloon System (commonly called an EIS) at the rate ordered by your doctor. This system infuses with body heat and pressure when the balloon is filled with medication (see pictures below).

Figure 1: EIS Full



Figure 2: EIS Empty



What should I expect?

A nurse will connect your chemotherapy in the Infusion Center when you are ready to go home. The EIS will be filled with chemotherapy as ordered by your doctor. As the medication infuses, the balloon inside the EIS will slowly shrink and empty. Your nurse will tell you how long your infusion will take. Verify your disconnection day and time with your nurse. If an appointment is necessary for disconnection, ask the nurse to verify the time and date to be sure it is appropriate.

Here are some helpful tips while connected to the EIS system:

Carrying the EIS:

You can place the EIS in a small pouch to carry with you. Keep the EIS container in the pouch and always wear it outside of your clothing to ensure it does not get too warm. Ensure that the EIS inside of the carrying case is never pinned between your body and another surface. Applying extra pressure on the outside of the EIS can make the infusion run too fast.

Maintaining your EIS:

- Do not get your dressing or your EIS wet
- Do not clamp the EIS tubing unless instructed to do so
- Your nurse will tape the tubing in a special way to help it infuse at the correct rate. Do not remove any of the tape during the infusion
- There is an “air filter” in the tubing that needs to remain uncovered; it can be worn under your clothing and must be kept dry at all times; **do not tape this to your skin (see picture below).**



- No air travel while connected to your EIS unless approved by your doctor

Avoid extreme temperatures:

The EIS will infuse faster or slower if your body becomes very hot or cold. Avoid exposing it to heat or cold:

- Use moderate water temperature when bathing
- Protect it from direct sunlight or very cold weather
- Do not swim or use a hot tub while the EIS is connected to you

- Do not use a heating pad, heated blankets or anything else that can raise or lower the temperature of the EIS while you are connected
- Do not participate in exercises that cause the body heat to increase while connected to your EIS

Checking the EIS:

Check the balloon every morning and every evening while you are connected to be sure the balloon is going down in size - this means the chemotherapy is infusing as ordered. It usually does not shrink evenly - it may look puckered or uneven, which is expected. It may take a few hours before you begin to notice any change. If it does not look like it is getting smaller in size, check the tubing to be sure it is not clamped or kinked.

Sleeping with the EIS:

When sleeping, keep the device at approximately the same level as your IV catheter. Put it into a small box or container next to you on the bed or on a bedside table. Do not put it under the covers as it will get too warm and may infuse too quickly. Placing the EIS up by your pillow is another good place to put it while you are sleeping.

Finishing the infusion:

It may look like your infusion is done early. The amount of chemotherapy you receive each hour is very small (approximately one teaspoon) - therefore, the EIS can look empty but still have many hours of chemotherapy remaining. It is very important to remain connected to your EIS for the prescribed amount of hours to ensure you receive the full dose of chemotherapy ordered by your doctor.

What will it look like when it is connected?

The EIS will be connected to your IV catheter and will look very similar to the picture in “Figure 1: EIS Full” on page 1.

How will I know when my infusion is done?

When empty, the EIS will look very similar to the picture in “Figure 2: EIS Empty” on page 1. Remember, it may look empty early but it is important to remain connected for the full time ordered by your doctor or you may not receive the full dose of chemotherapy ordered.

Chemotherapy precautions

Chemotherapy medication is released from the body through urine, stool, vomit and blood for up to 48 hours after your treatment has stopped. Follow these guidelines during that time:

- After using the toilet close the lid and flush twice. Men should urinate sitting down to avoid splashing.
- After using the toilet wash your hands well with soap and water. If any fluids splashed on your skin, clean the area with soap and water.
- Clean the toilet lid after flushing while on chemotherapy precautions. Family members or caregivers should wear disposable gloves if cleaning the lid, or if cleaning up any urine, stool, vomit or changing diapers/incontinence pads.
- Wash any contaminated laundry separate from other laundry for the first wash cycle.

What do I do if my chemotherapy spills or leaks?

You will receive a spill kit with your supplies and instructions. You should keep this spill kit with you at all times while you are connected to your infusion, even when you travel. If you have any spill or leaking of medication use the chemotherapy spill kit provided immediately and follow the included instructions.

Notes:

What if I have problems or concerns after I'm home?

If you experience any symptoms that are concerning for you or any problems or concerns with your EIS pump, call one of the numbers below for assistance. An example of a pump concern is that the pump becomes disconnected or is leaking, or that the medicine looks like it is infusing too quickly or taking longer than expected. If any of these things happen:

- During clinic hours (8am-5pm), call your clinic at _____.
- After clinic hours (5pm-8am) and on weekends and holidays, call your clinic number above and ask for the **on-call Oncology Fellow**.

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