

Infusing Home Chemotherapy with a Balloon System: SMARTeZ

How will I infuse my chemotherapy at home?

You will receive your home chemotherapy with a non-electronic balloon system, called an Elastomeric Infusion System pump (commonly called an EIS) over a length of time 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, which will be determined by the date and time you are connected to the EIS. If an appointment is necessary for disconnection, ask the nurse to verify the date and time 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. Keep the tubing connected to the EIS under your clothing, all the way down to the filter (disk-like piece that has a number on it, see below). Make sure the EIS inside of the carrying case is never pinned between your body and another surface as this can place extra pressure on the outside of the EIS and make the infusion run too fast.

Maintaining your EIS:

- Do not get your EIS or your dressing wet
- Do not clamp the EIS tubing unless instructed to do so
- Be sure your tubing does not get kinked
- Keep all of the tubing, from the air filter (see below) to where it connects to your intravenous access line, under your clothing to help it infuse at the proper rate. Keep the remainder of the tubing and the balloon outside of your clothes.
- Keep the flow restrictor near the skin. This is the long plastic section near the end of the EIS tubing where it connects to your IV device. Place it loosely between the skin and clothing.
- Keep the air filter dry and uncovered; this is the round disk-like portion with a colored tag on it with a number that indicates how fast your medicine is infusing.

You can wear it can under your clothing but **do not tape this to your skin.**

- Avoid exerting any pressure to the EIS
- Avoid extreme temperatures (see below)
- No air travel while connected to your EIS unless approved by your doctor

Flow restrictor



Air filter



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 many hours before you 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.
- If it still does not look like it's getting smaller the next time you check, call your clinic (Mon-Fri, 8:00am-5:00pm). After clinic hours or on the weekend, call HomeMed at (800) 862-2731.

Sleeping with the EIS:

When sleeping, keep the device at approximately the same level as your IV catheter (your port or PICC). Put it into a small box or container next to you on the bed or on a bedside table or chair to avoid laying on it while sleeping. 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 number 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.

What if my infusion looks like it is running too fast or taking too long?

If your infusion looks like it is infusing too quickly, or taking longer than expected, call your clinic (Mon-Fri, 8:00am-5:00pm). After clinic hours or on the weekend, call HomeMed at (800) 862-2731.

What if my infusion tubing becomes disconnected?

If your infusion tubing becomes disconnected it is important to close the clamps on both your IV line (Port or PICC) and on the tubing as quickly as possible. Then call your clinic (Mon-Fri, 8:00am-5:00pm). After clinic hours or on the weekend, call HomeMed at (800) 862-2731.

Closed clamp



What if I have other questions about my EIS or about the way I’m feeling after I’m home?

Any questions you have related to the EIS pump or infusion will also go to your clinic nurse (Mon-Fri, 8:00am-5:00pm). After clinic hours or on the weekend, call HomeMed at (800) 862-2731. Direct any questions you have about symptoms or

the way you are feeling to your clinic nurse or to the on-call oncology fellow at (734) 936-6268 (after clinic hours).

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