

Infusing Home Chemotherapy Using an Elastomeric Pump

How will I infuse my chemotherapy at home?

You will receive your chemotherapy at home by a non-electronic balloon system (commonly called an elastomeric infusion system –or- EIS). The brand used by the University of Michigan is the Dosi-Fuser® (see images below). When filled with chemotherapy, the balloon pushes the drug through your IV at a slow rate ordered by your doctor. As this happens, you should notice the balloon gradually becomes smaller and the volume indicator moving down the scale on the outside of the plastic container. The benefits of a balloon system are:

- Light weight
- Easy to use
- Allows you to continue your daily activities rather than having to stay overnight in the hospital for treatment.



Image 1. Dosi-Fuser® Parts



Image 2. How to tell if your chemotherapy is infusing:

What should I expect?

Your doctor will order chemotherapy to be given by the Dosi-Fuser[®]. The chemotherapy will be prepared by a specialty pharmacy called HomeMed. A nurse in the infusion center will connect the Dosi-Fuser[®] filled with chemotherapy to your IV and will tell you how long your infusion will take. You will be discharged home after your Dosi-Fuser[®] is connected.

Note: It is important to check your Dosi-Fuser[®] from time to time to ensure the chemotherapy is infusing. It is possible that your infusion may end up to 7 hours early or late. If your device becomes empty sooner or later than 7 hours of the expected ending time –or- you have any questions or concerns about your infusion, please **contact HomeMed at 1-800-862-2731.**

How does my body temperature affect my pump?

*The rate of the pump is regulated by your body temperature. The pump may run too fast if it gets warm or if your body temperature is above normal.

- Use warm water temperatures when bathing (see Water and your Dosi-Fuser[®] for more bathing information).
- Avoid anything that will raise or lower the temperature of the pump. The Dosi-Fuser® will infuse faster or slower if your body becomes very hot or cold.
- **Do not** get the pump hot or cold.
- **Do not** place pump in direct sunlight.
- **Do not** use heating pad or heating blankets.
- **Do not** expose to cold.

Can I exercise with my Dosi-Fuser®?

You may exercise while using a Dosi-Fuser[®] if you do the following:

- Secure the Dosi-Fuser[®] to ensure it won't be dropped or pull on your IV catheter during exercise.
- *Exercise can increase your body temperature.*
 - Un-tape the temperature controller while you exercise.
 - Re-tape the temperature controller when you are done exercising.

How should I wear my Dosi-Fuser®?

- Wear the temperature sensor taped to your skin at all times.
- **Do not** add **extra tape**, as you may kink the tubing or stop the infusion.
- The Dosi-Fuser[®] is placed in a small carrying pouch that attaches to your • belt loop, clipped to your clothing or sleeping pillow, or placed on a nearby surface.
- Remove the infusion bottle from the pouch at least once every 12 hours while connected to be sure that the IV tubing is not clamped and is running at the appropriate rate.

How will I Sleep with my Dosi-Fuser®?

- Place the Dosi-Fuser[®] under or next to your pillow, or on a bedside chair or table, when sleeping.
- You may use the Dosi-Fuser[®] clip to secure the pump to your pillow case.
- **Do not** place **under** your bedcovers during sleep.
- **Do not** sleep with the pump or fanny pack **attached** to your body.
- **Do not** hang pump above chest level.
- **Do not** place pump on the floor.

How will I keep my Dosi-Fuser® dry?

- Always keep your IV access site dry
- Wrap the filter with plastic wrap if showering or bathing
- **Do not** get the pump or filter wet
- **Do not** swim or use a hot tub while the pump is connected to you.

***Tip:** Shower before your connection and then sponge bathe during your infusion

How will I know when my infusion is done?

- Always leave the Dosi-Fuser[®] connected and unclamped until it is empty. You can tell that the pump is empty if:
- The balloon is deflated, and
- The Volume indicator is at zero.

When the Dosi-Fuser® has finished the infusion, you may still see a

small quantity of remaining liquid; this is normal.

• **Do not** clamp the tubing until the infusion is being disconnected.



• **Do not** disconnect your infusion by yourself unless you have been trained in this procedure.

When should I contact HomeMed Pharmacy?

Please contact HomeMed at (1-800-862-2731) if:

- Your Dosi-Fuser[®] is empty 7 or more hours earlier than your planned disconnect time.
- You have leaks in the Dosi-Fuser[®] or tubing.
- You have a fever during your infusion
- The infusion volume indicator appears not to be moving closer to zero after a couple of hours of watching

***Tip:** Use a marker and mark the bottom of the volume indicator. Check back in a couple of hours to see if the volume indicator has moved.

What are important tips to remember?

- Keep pets and small children away from the Dosi-Fuser[®].
- Wear the Dosi-Fuser[®] outside of clothing at waist level
- Always keep sensor taped to your skin.
- **Do not** travel by air unless approved by your doctor.
- **Do not** clamp your Dosi-Fuser[®] tubing unless instructed by your care team.
- **Do not** wear the Dosi-Fuser[®] during an MRI. The Dosi-Fuser[®] infusion will need to be disconnected during the MRI procedure.

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