

WHAT IS INTRAVENOUS (IV) IRON?

IV iron is a treatment patients receive through an intravenous line for iron deficiency anemia. This treatment is provided when oral iron is not tolerated or not sufficiently absorbed in the body.

HOW LONG DOES THE IRON INFUSION TAKE?

IV iron is given in our Medical Day Care Department and is infused over 3-4 hours. Once you have received your iron you may be required to stay 30-60 minutes after treatment. We ask that you wear short sleeves for the duration of your infusion which allows us to properly monitor your intravenous site. *Once your infusion has started you must stay in Medical Day Care for the duration of your treatment.*

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HAVING AN IRON INFUSION?

Iron is an essential mineral the body uses to make hemoglobin. When your iron levels are low one main symptom you may be feeling is lack of energy/fatigue. IV iron is administered directly through your vein supplying your body with a quick iron replacement. One IV iron treatment is equivalent to 2-3 months of oral iron supplement pills.

WHAT DOES THE HEALTH CARE TEAM NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ME?

It is important for you to inform us of:

- any allergies
- past iron treatments
- reactions or side effects as a result of past iron treatments

HOW MANY TREATMENTS WILL I NEED?

Most patients receive an iron treatment once a week for 3 weeks. The need for additional treatments will be determined at a follow up appointment with your physician, and will be based on how you are feeling, as well as your blood work results.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS TO IV IRON?

Although uncommon, allergic reactions to IV iron are possible. Some reactions may be delayed. Severe side effects include: difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, chest tightness/heaviness/pain, feeling your heart race/swelling in your throat/mouth/tongue/hives, or itching.

If you experience these symptoms while in our care please tell your nurse. If you experience these symptoms after you go home please seek medical assistance and let them know you have received IV iron.

Less serious side effects include: feeling warm or lightheaded, nausea, abdominal pain, joint and muscle pain, backache, fever, headache, leg cramps, burning or discomfort at the IV insertion site.

If you experience any less serious side effects please tell your nurse. If you experience these at home take Tylenol or Benadryl, this may help relieve discomfort. Please ask your health care provider for more information.

Please inform staff at your next visit if you have had any side effect listed above.

WILL IV IRON INTERACT WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

In general, IV iron will not interact with other medications. Also there is no harm in taking your iron pills and having iron IV treatment. The need to continue this medical treatment regimen can be discussed with your physician at your follow up appointment.