

# Iron Infusion Therapy

## Yarmouth Regional Hospital

### Why do I need iron infusion therapy?

- Your health care provider has recommended you take intravenous (I.V.) iron infusion therapy if you:
  - › cannot take oral iron.
  - › have surgery planned within 2 months.
  - › have irritable bowel disease (IBD).
  - › have had a gastrectomy or bariatric surgery.
  - › are on dialysis for chronic kidney disease (CKD).
- If you do not have enough iron in your blood, your red blood cells will not have enough hemoglobin. Hemoglobin carries oxygen throughout your body.
- If you do not have enough hemoglobin, your body may have trouble getting enough oxygen. This may cause you to feel tired or short of breath. This is called **anemia**.
- To help your body make hemoglobin, your health care team has recommended an injectable (given by a needle in your arm) form of iron, like:
  - › Iron sucrose (Venofer®)
  - › Ferric derisomaltose (MonoFerric®)
- **Do not take this medication if you have had an allergic reaction to iron sucrose or ferric derisomaltose.**

**Before you start iron sucrose or ferric derisomaltose, tell your health care team if you:**

- › are pregnant or breastfeeding/chestfeeding.
- › have low blood pressure.

### How is iron infusion therapy given?

- Your health care provider will tell you if you need to buy this medication at your local pharmacy and bring it with you to your appointment.

- You will get iron infusion therapy through an intravenous (I.V.) injection into a vein.
  - › An iron sucrose infusion takes about 1 to 1 ½ hours (60 to 90 minutes).
  - › A ferric derisomaltose infusion takes about 20 minutes to 1 hour (60 minutes).
- You may have discomfort or a lump under your skin at the injection site (where the needle was put in). This will go away in 1 to 2 days.
- After each infusion, you may need blood work to check if the injection has raised your iron levels. Your health care provider will tell you when this is needed (usually 4 to 6 weeks after your infusion).

### What are the possible side effects?

- › Headache
- › Feeling dizzy or faint
- › Feeling tired
- › Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- › Vomiting (throwing up)
- › Diarrhea (loose, watery poop)
- › Muscle cramps

### 1 to 2 days after your infusion, you may have:

- › Nausea
- › Vomiting
- › Diarrhea
- › Joint pain
- › Muscle pain

**Tell your health care provider right away if you have any symptoms of an allergic reaction during your infusion, like:**

- › Itching or a skin rash
- › Swelling of your face, mouth, or hands
- › Chills
- › Trouble breathing
- › Chest pain or tightness

**If you have any of these symptoms after your infusion, call 911 right away.**

This pamphlet is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

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