

Your chemotherapy infusion device

This leaflet explains about the part of your treatment that you will be receiving through an infusion device while you are at home. If you have any further questions, please speak to your treatment unit.

Why do I have an infusion device?

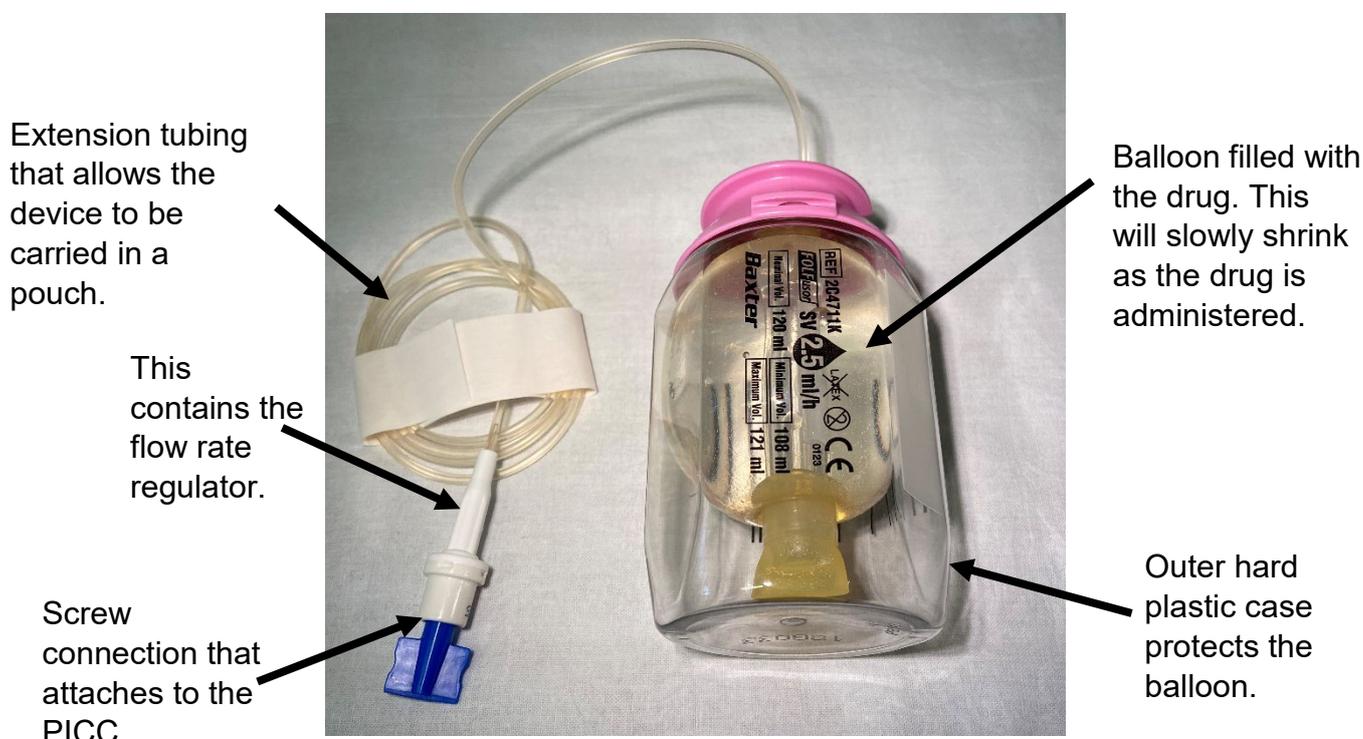
As part of your chemotherapy regimen you will be receiving a chemotherapy drug called 5-Fluorouracil (5FU). This drug is given directly into your vein and is delivered over a specific number of days by an infusion device. The infusion device (sometimes called a pump or infusor) allows for the slow and continuous infusion of medication at a pre-planned infusion rate.

We need to give the fluid into one of your larger veins through a tube called a peripherally inserted central catheter line (PICC). The PICC line will also allow for easy collection of blood samples. We will discuss the PICC insertion with you and provide written information.

Your chemotherapy nurse will be able to tell you exactly how long your device will be attached.

What does my infusion device look like?

The infusion device will look similar to the device in the photograph below. The photograph shows a particular device which will deliver your chemotherapy at a rate of 2.5 ml per hour (a very slow drip). We have a variety of different devices of varying infusion rates and volumes to ensure we can give the treatment over the correct time period.

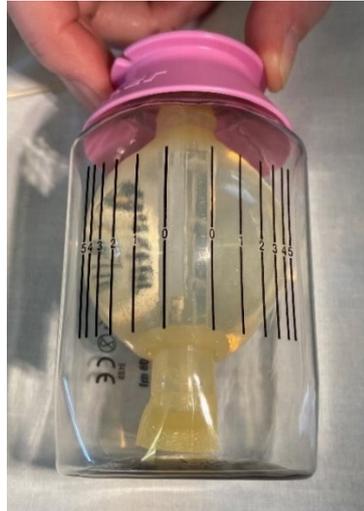


How can I check the progress of my infusion device?

When connecting the infusion device to your PICC line, the nursing staff will show you the size of the balloon and how you can check that the contents are infusing correctly (see picture below). Over a period of hours, you will notice the balloon gradually shrink in size and the markings on the outer bottle can help you judge this. The markings may be obscured by labels but you should be able to get a good indication of whether the balloon is going down or not. You should check your device every morning and evening to see that it is shrinking.



Infusion device full



Infusion device half full



Infusion device empty

(Balloon may appear stretched)

Connecting and disconnecting the device

Your nurse will attach the infusion device containing the chemotherapy to your PICC line. Once attached, it will infuse slowly over a period of days. The nurse will tape your line into a curve position against your skin. This is to ensure the flow rate regulator remains at body temperature and the PICC line is not kinked.

We will supply you with a pouch and a strap to hold the device. You can wear the pouch around your waist, attached to a belt, or wear the strap over your shoulder like a bag. It is normal that the device will feel strange the first time you have it attached. Once you become familiar with carrying the device around it should not interfere with your normal daily activities.

When the device is due to be disconnected, either a district nurse will be asked to attend your home (this is arranged by the day unit nursing staff when you attend your first chemotherapy appointment), or you will be asked to go to a PICC clinic. The device will be removed and the PICC flushed with saline (saltwater) and secured. You will need to have the PICC line flushed and the dressing changed every seven days between your treatments.

Practical information

- At night, it is important that you do not place the device on the floor or above your head as this can affect the flow. Placing the device on a bedside table, bedside drawer or on top of the bed covers will ensure it is at the correct height.

- You should ensure that the device does not become tangled in the bed clothes (sheets, pillows, duvets, etc.) as this may pull on the PICC.
- When showering or bathing you should hang the device away from water.
- You can exercise with the infusion device as long as the product remains close to room temperature and is not exposed to water. Ask your doctor or nurse for further advice.
- The device is safe to use around pets. Ensure it is protected from chewing and playing.
- Do not disconnect the device.

Troubleshooting

The infusion device, tubing or PICC is leaking:

- Every morning and night, gently ensure the connection is tight. Do not screw in too firmly or the connection may crack.
- If you locate a leak, please follow the instructions in your spillage kit.
- Contact the team on the numbers below.

The infusion device does not look like it is emptying:

- If your PICC has a clamp then check that the clamp is open.
- Check for kinks/folds in the line of the device and also on your PICC.
- Contact the team on the numbers below for further advice.

The district nurse has not arrived to disconnect your device:

If the district nurse has not arrived when expected to disconnect your device or to flush your line, please contact them directly on 0300 365 0400.

Contact us

24 hour advice line	24 hours/7 days	0118 322 7762
Bracknell Chemotherapy 1	8.30am – 4.30pm	01344 66 2904
King Edward Ward	9.00am – 5.00pm	0118 322 7464
BCC Clinic	9.00am – 5.00pm	0118 322 7890
BBC Appointments	9.00am – 5.00pm	0118 322 7888

Many thanks to Guy's Cancer. Leaflet adapted from www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/resources/patient-information/cancer/chemotherapy-infusion-device.pdf

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

Reema Musa, Clinical Oncology Pharmacist, June 2021

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Compassionate

Aspirational

Resourceful

Excellent