

# YOUR 46 HOUR INFUSOR PUMP

Key Information When Starting On A Pump

## Inside this resource:

- What is a 46-Hour Infusor Pump
- How Do I Carry the Pump Around?
- How Do I Take Care Of The Pump?
- How Should I Monitor the Balloon Inside the Pump?
- Safety At Home
- Symptoms to Watch For At Home
- Who To Call With Questions

**Waterloo Wellington  
Regional Cancer Program**

Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)

# What is a 46 Hour Infusor Pump?

The infusor pump is used to give your chemotherapy drug slowly over 46 hours (a little less than 2 days), and is then thrown away. It is lightweight and quiet. It does not need a battery or programming. To get your medicine through the pump, you will have a central access line (PICC) or port inserted before your first chemotherapy treatment. The pump lets you continue with your regular daily activities.

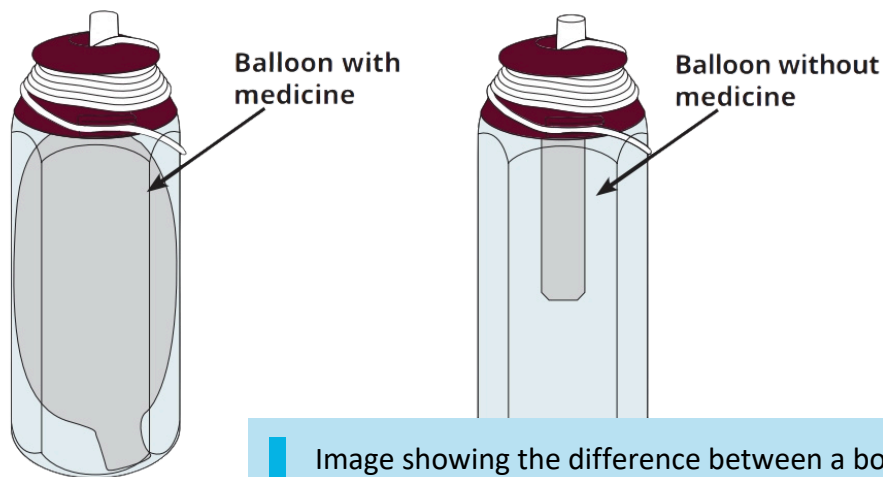


Image showing the difference between a bottle with a full balloon of medicine, and one without medicine.

The pharmacist fills the balloon inside the pump with your chemotherapy drug. Over the next 46 hours, the balloon will deflate (get smaller) while gently pushing the medicine through your intravenous (IV) tubing and into your catheter or port.

Your medicine is set to finish in 46 hours. Let your health care team know if your medicine is finished in 41 hours or less.

See page 4 for more information on how to monitor your balloon.

## How Do I Carry the Pump Around?

The pump works best when the “maroon” part at the top of the pump is carried as close as possible to a white tubing connector taped to your skin.

You can use your own carrying case (like a fanny pack or shoulder purse), or carry the pump inside your pocket. You can also buy a bottle holder at the Cancer Centre Retail Pharmacy.

# How Do I Take Care of the Pump?

To make sure that you get your medicine safely while you are at home, follow these safety instructions:

- Keep the pump away from very hot or cold temperatures, like a bath or sauna. Extreme temperatures can change the speed that your medicine is given.
- Do not get the pump wet. To keep it dry when you shower or bathe, put the pump in a plastic bag and hang it up outside of your shower or put it on a chair.
- Place the pump close to you at bedtime so that the tubing is not pulled away accidentally. You can place the pump under your pillow.

# How Should I Monitor the Balloon Inside the Pump?

Your medicine is set to finish in 46 hours days (a little less than two days). It is very important that your medicine does not finish too fast or too slow. You can check this by looking at the balloon inside the pump every morning and evening. The balloon should slowly shrink as time passes (see pictures on page 4).

## **How to check if your medicine is going in too fast:**

If your medicine is finished in 41 hours or less, your medicine may be going in too fast. Call your doctor or nurse right away (see “For Questions About Your Pump?” on page 7).

## **How to check if your medicine is going in too slow:**

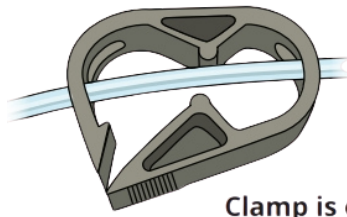
The balloon will stay at about the same size for the first 12 hours after your pump is attached by your nurse. If the balloon is not getting smaller after the first 12 hours, your medicine may be going in too slow.

First, check that:

- the clamps on your IV are open
- the tubing from the pump to your IV is not twisted or kinked

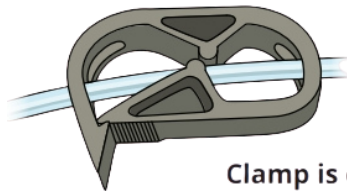
If there are no twists in the tubing and the clamps are open but the balloon is still the same size since the last time you checked, call your nurse right away (see “For Questions About Your Pump” on page 7).

## How to check if your IV clamp is open or closed



Clamp is open

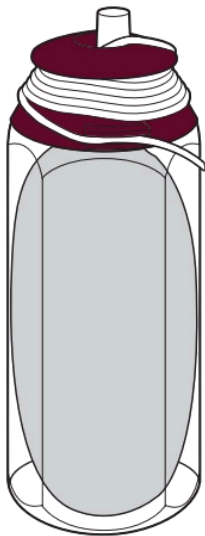
Images of the IV clamp when it is open (top) and closed (bottom).



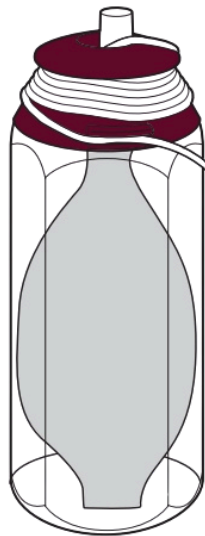
Clamp is closed

## How Will I Know What Size the Balloon Should Be?

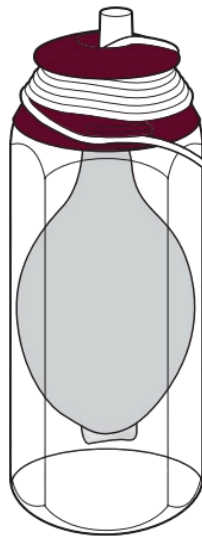
The pictures below show the size the balloon should be at 12, 24, 36 and 46 hours after the medicine has started. These pictures are only a general guide. It is okay if the balloon is a little bigger or smaller than shown below.



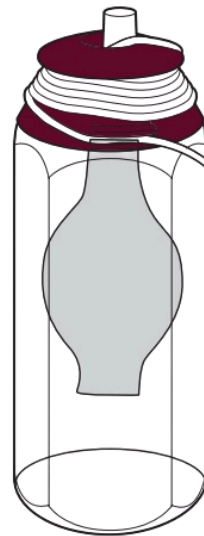
**Start medicine:**  
Full



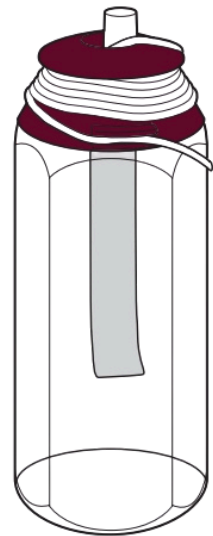
**12 hours later:**  
about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full



**24 hours later  
(the next day):**  
about  $\frac{1}{2}$  full



**36 hours later  
(the evening of  
the next day):**  
about  $\frac{1}{4}$  full



**46 hours later  
(a little less  
than 2 days):**  
empty

# Safety at Home

Follow these safety instructions while at home:

- Do NOT remove or disconnect the pump.
- Do NOT reuse the carrying case that was used to carry the pump during your treatment. If the carrying case is washable, it is OK to reuse it after it has been washed in soapy hot water. Wash the carrying case by itself.
- Keep pump away from small children and pets.
- Know the instructions and items found in the chemotherapy spill kit that was given to you at the start of your treatment. Your spill kit contains an absorbent pad and two pairs of gloves in a re-sealable plastic bag. Keep this kit in a place that is easy to reach, and make sure your family members know how to use it.
- Disposable gloves should be worn if someone other than you is cleaning up your bodily waste (vomit, stool, or urine) and when handling soiled linen, bedpan, urinal etc.
- If you notice a leak anywhere along the pump or the tubing, or if your IV becomes disconnected you or a family member should refer to the instructions on your spill kit.



Intravenous  
Chemotherapy

You can continue to follow the safety instructions from your Intravenous Chemotherapy handout.

[wrhn.ca/resources/intravenous-chemotherapy](http://wrhn.ca/resources/intravenous-chemotherapy)



Side Effects to  
Watch For On  
Chemotherapy

Monitor how you are feeling during your treatment, follow our “Side Effects to Watch For On Chemotherapy” handout.

[wrhn.ca/resources/side-effects-to-watch-for-on-chemotherapy](http://wrhn.ca/resources/side-effects-to-watch-for-on-chemotherapy)

## If you have a spill:

1. Open kit.
2. Put on a pair of the gloves.
3. Close all IV clamps.
4. Wrap the gauze (provided in the spill kit) around leaking area, and tape. If completely disconnected, place bottle in the re-sealable bag provided.
5. If chemotherapy has spilled or dripped onto a surface, place the absorbent pad over the spill to soak up excess.
6. Put this absorbent pad into re-sealable bag.
7. Use a cloth that can be thrown away to wash the area with warm soapy water and rinse with clear water 2 times.
8. Put this cloth into a re-sealable plastic bag when you are finished washing the surface.
9. Remove the gloves and place them in the re-sealable bag.
10. Close the re-sealable bag securely.
11. Wash your hands well with warm soapy water.
12. You will need to bring the plastic bags with the bottle, cloth and gloves to the hospital to be thrown away in a special garbage bin.
13. Call the hospital for further instructions (see “Who do I call for help?” on page 9).

## Symptoms to Watch For At Home

If you are having any of the following symptoms call the hospital for further instructions (see “For Questions About Your Pump” on page 7):

- Feeling chills and/or fever greater than 38 °C or 100 °F
- Redness, swelling, discharge, or increased pain around the IV dressing.
- Persistent (constant) pain or discomfort, numbness/tingling around the IV, shoulder, or chest and jaw.
- Blood in the tubing.



If at anytime you cannot reach your healthcare team at the hospital, go to your nearest hospital Emergency Department.

# What Should I Do With the Pump When I Finish My Treatment?

When you finish your treatment, a nurse in the hospital or in the community will disconnect it for you. This will be booked ahead of time so that you will know when and where you will be disconnected.

**Do not throw away the pump in your household garbage.** Small amounts of chemotherapy in the pump can be a danger to others and the environment. The empty pump must be placed in a re-sealable plastic bag (such as a Ziploc bag), and returned to the hospital so it can be thrown away in a special garbage bin.

## Who To Call With Questions

Your homecare team (Ontario Health atHome) should be able to answer most questions about your pump. Contact your homecare coordinator directly.

If you have questions about your cancer care, or side effects from your cancer/treatment, you can call your cancer healthcare team.

**WRHN Cancer Centre call centre**  
**8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.**  
**519-479-4380**

If you need support outside of these hours you will need to contact CareChart Digital Health:

**1-877-681-3057**

[www.carechart.ca](http://www.carechart.ca)

Adapted with permission from “Your 46-Hour Infusor Pump” (2025) UHN Patient Education & Engagement. Use this resource for your information only. It does not replace medical advice from your doctor or other healthcare professionals.



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[cancerwaterloowellington.ca](http://cancerwaterloowellington.ca)

