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INFORMATION SHEET FOR IRON INFUSION– Ferinject

A fee of \$200 will be charged on the day of the procedure. There is a \$39.75 rebate from Medicare. The out of pocket fee is \$160.25

Ferinject (Ferric Carboxymaltose) is a type of iron infusion, delivered via a drip. This can sometimes be used instead of iron tablets.

Some reasons why Ferinject is used:

- Blood tests have shown you are anaemic and this has not responded to oral iron tablets, or the iron tablets have made you feel unwell
- You have significant anaemia after the birth of your baby, but are otherwise feeling well
- You have declined a blood transfusion

Side effects

Potential mild side effects occur in 1 to 10% of patients and may include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Rash
- Nausea and/or Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Muscle cramps
- Diarrhoea/constipation
- Flushing
- Low or high blood pressure
- Localised reactions at the cannulation site – can cause iron staining
- Hypophosphataemia - low phosphate levels. May require oral replacement or referral to a specialist for treatment

Suitability of Ferinject

You should not have Ferinject if you:

- Have anaemia caused by something other than iron deficiency (i.e. B12 deficiency)
- Have ever been told by a GP that you have 'iron overload'
- Have ever had an allergic reaction to iron given to you through a drip
- Have ever had problems with your liver such as liver cirrhosis or hepatitis
- Are under the age of 14
- Are pregnant

Receiving Ferinject

An appointment will be arranged for you to receive the infusion in the clinic. Please allow to be at the clinic for at least **one hour**.

When you arrive, you will be taken through to the treatment room where the Nurse will record your blood pressure and other observations. You will then have a drip inserted into the back of your hand and the Ferinject infusion will be commenced. This infusion normally takes approximately 15 minutes. During this time, the Nurse will again record your observations.

At the end of the infusion, the Nurse will record your observations and inform the GP that the infusion is complete. Your drip will then be removed.

You will be asked to remain in the clinic for a further 30 minutes. Following this time, your observations will be recorded for a final time. If you are feeling well and your observations are within range, you will be free to leave the clinic.

Following the infusion

- You may require a second transfusion – this will have already been discussed by your GP. If this is required, a further appointment is arranged **no sooner than 7 days** following the first infusion
- Your blood level will need to be checked 10-14 days later
- If you experience any difficulty breathing, dizziness, neck or mouth swelling in the hours or days following infusion, dial 000 or go to the nearest Emergency Department

Oral iron tablets

You must not take oral iron tablets while you are having Ferinject and you should not restart taking them until you have been advised by your GP.