

5-Fluorouracil (5FU) infusion pump

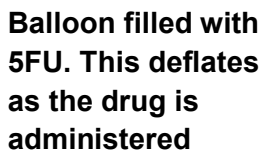
Patient Information Leaflet

This leaflet explains the treatment that you will be receiving through an infusion device whilst you are at home. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you

Your healthcare team have decided that as part of your chemotherapy regimen, you will be receiving a 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.

The pump looks similar to the image below; some pumps are larger as there are varying infusion rates.



Hard outer shell to protect balloon

Extension tubing
allowing the
pump to be
attached to the
PICC or Port

Flow rate regulator and heat sensor enabling administration

How will it be connected?

All patients receiving this will either have a Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) line or a Port-A-Cath. You will be referred to venous access prior to starting the treatment to have this inserted. During your day unit appointment your nurse will attach the infusion device containing the 5FU to your Port or PICC.

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 or Port line is not kinked. We will supply you with a reusable 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.



**Flow Rate
Regulator Attached
Directly to Skin**



Reusable Pouch

How long will I have this infusion device attached for?

Your nurse will be able to give you a specific time depending on the specific Systemic Anti-Cancer therapy regime you are having.

How do I know it is infusing?

The device contains a balloon filled with the 5FU chemotherapy, as the medicine is administered, the balloon slowly shrinks (see images below).

The markings on the outer case can help you check the balloon is shrinking, this should be checked every morning and evening.

Some patients weigh their pump regularly to check if the device is infusing.



Infusion device full



Infusion device half full



Infusion device empty

How is it disconnected?

An appointment will be given for you to attend Trevor Howell Day Unit to have the infusion pump removed (this is arranged by the day unit nursing staff when you attend your first chemotherapy appointment).

Can I go out with it?

Yes, 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. The pump should not get wet or be in direct sunlight.

Can I shower with it?

Yes, although it is important that the pump and dressing should not get wet as this could lead to problems with the dressing falling off and the heat sensor becoming detached. If you need a shower sleeve, please speak to the nurse on the day unit.

How do I sleep with it?

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

What if I feel unwell during the treatment I am receiving at home?

Contact the 24-hour Acute Oncology Hotline and follow the advice on your yellow card on **07831 147 653**

If you experience sudden chest pain: **Call 999 immediately**

Troubleshooting at home

If the infusion device does not look like it is emptying:

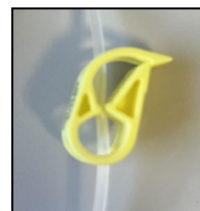
- If your PICC/Port has a clamp, then check that the clamp is open.
- Check for kinks/folds in the line of the device and on your PICC.
- Check everything is connected to your PORT/PICC.
- Contact the team on the numbers below for further advice.



Open Clamp

If you notice the heat sensor is no longer stuck down to your skin:

- Reapply a dressing or tape down to secure it back to your skin
- Check the balloon is reducing
- Contact the team on the number below if you don't think the balloon is reducing



Closed

If you dislodge your port needle

- Immediately close the clamp on the port line
- a nurse on the day unit can show you how to do this.
- Contact the 24-hour hotline for advice. You may be asked to come to one of the oncology wards out of hours to have it checked (instead of attending A&E).
- Place the pump in two plastics bags and tie closed.
- Bring the bags containing the 5FU pump back to the hospital
- Clean your skin with soap and water if any fluid leaked.

If you notice your pump has not finished when it was supposed to:

- Check the size of the balloon and the time your pump was scheduled to empty and contact us. It may be necessary for you to come into hospital for a nurse to check the progress of the infusion or remove the pump.

How to contact us

For any concerns or questions relating your 5FU infusion device between **Monday to Friday 9pm-6pm** please contact the Nurse in Charge on Trevor Howell Day Unit on **020 8725 5886**

For out of hours and weekends please contact the **24-hour Acute Oncology Hotline** who will be able to assist with any urgent issues on **07831 147 653**

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

For more information on the drug 5-Fluorouracil, please visit www.macmillan.org.uk

Many thanks to Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. Leaflet adapted from https://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/media/5lxdmf5/your-chemo-infusion-device_dec22.pdf

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health. **Web:** www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.
Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.

