

# Eatons Hill Medical Centre

## Iron Infusion Information Sheet

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### Prior to making an appointment

- We would like to invite you to visit our website ([www.eatonshillmedical.com.au](http://www.eatonshillmedical.com.au)) and review our information on Iron Infusion or ring for an information pack (3325 5559).
- A referral from your regular doctor with your full medical information and blood test results are desired.
- If you do not have a referral, please provide a summary of your medical history, medication and allergy (s). A template is attached.
- If you do not have your blood test results, please tell us the company (usually QML or SNP) where you have had the blood test taken. A consent form may be required to be signed in order to download your results prior to the appointment.
- Please note that Eatons Hill Medical Centre only provides the service for your iron infusion. Please return to your usual doctor for definite investigation and management of your medical conditions.
- Only Ferinject is used in this clinic.

### First Appointment

Depending on your medical history, it may take up to 20-40mins for the consultation. Out of pocket after Medicare rebate is usually around \$40-\$55 depending on the length of time you spend with the doctor.

- Review your medical history and blood results with doctor. Determine suitability for iron infusion at the practice (allergies, risk factors).
- Provide information about iron infusion and discussion.
- Provide consent form and discussion.
- Provide script for Ferinject.

### Second Appointment (*\$175 out of pocket – 1 hour appointment*)

#### Before the appointment

- ✓ Continue taking all of your normal medication, however please stop taking any iron tablets at least 7 days before the infusion
- ✓ What to wear – dress in loose, comfortable clothing - Please wear a short sleeve top
- ✓ Meals – you may eat as normal prior to the infusion
- ✓ Please drink 2-3 glasses of water prior to your appointment
- ✓ You can drive yourself to and from the appointment

### The Infusion – what to expect

- A cannula will be put into your arm to enable the iron solution to be given
- The nurse will take regular observations throughout the infusion
- The iron infusion will take 15 mins
- If a suitable vein cannot be found, the infusion may be rescheduled
- If **any** side effects are experienced during or following the infusion, please inform the nurse
- Iron infusion might be terminated due to complication.

### What symptoms might you experience?

*Common* (these may continue on and off for up to 1-7days)

- Temporary changes in taste
- Headache, feeling sick or vomiting
- Muscle and joint pain
- Itchiness, rash
- Dizziness

*Uncommon* (NOTE: Severe side effects are rare. You will be closely monitored by the nurse during the infusion of iron).

- Burning, swelling and/or discolouration at injection site
- Permanent skin discolouration at the injection site
- Shortness of breath

### Following the infusion

- You will be required to wait 30 minutes for observation.
- The iron will take a few weeks to have its full effect and your doctor will check your blood iron levels in 3- 6 weeks.
- Please check with the doctor before re-starting any oral iron tablets. Do not recommence your iron tablet until at least one week after the infusion.
- Sometimes mild side effects can start 1 to 2 days after the infusion and include headache, mild fever, joint and muscle aches.

If side effects are worrying you or interfering with your daily activities, please phone the practice on 3325 5559. If after hours, please contact Home Dr Service on 137425 or Hello Home Dr Service on 134100.

**NOTE: If you have chest pain, difficulty breathing, dizziness or neck/mouth swelling, SEEK URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION. Ring 000 for an ambulance immediately.**