

# Ferinject®/Iron Infusion Information and Management Plan



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You have been prescribed Ferinject® because you have low iron levels in your body and/or iron tablets/liquid have not worked, or have given you side effects. Please tell your doctor if you have an infection, asthma, eczema, allergies or any liver disorder.

## What is Ferinject®?

Ferinject® is a form of iron medicine which is given directly into your vein (through a drip) to increase iron levels in your body. Iron is needed for the production of oxygen carrying red blood cells.

## Can the infusion have any effects on my baby during pregnancy and breastfeeding?

Harmful effects have not been reported.

## Can the infusion have any harmful effects on me?

Ferinject® is only recommended when the benefit is greater than the possible risks. Possible side effects (5:100) include headache, dizziness, high blood pressure, flushing, nausea, and skin reactions around the drip site. These can include pain in the drip site, bruising, and long lasting or permanent brown staining of the skin due to accidental leakage of the medicine. Other side effects (less than 1:100) include mild allergic reaction, numbness in the arm, racing heartbeat, low blood pressure, shortness of breath, vomiting, heartburn, stomach pain, constipation, diarrhoea, itchiness, hives, back pain, chest pain, high temperature and rash. A very rare side effect (less than 1:1000) is a serious allergic reaction (anaphylactic reaction).

## How is Ferinject® given?

We administer Ferinject® in a medical setting due to the possible side effects. A full set of your observations will be taken before starting the infusion. If you are pregnant, we will listen to your baby's heartbeat. A cannula (drip) will be inserted into your arm and the infusion commenced. It is critical at this stage that you keep your arm still to prevent the cannula coming out. It is very important that you inform your care provider immediately if you think that the cannula has come out, or you are feeling pain/stinging/burning in your arm.

## Will I have any after effects?

Sometimes women may feel a little tired, however, this should not prevent you driving home. Some women may have darker urine as about 5% of the iron is filtered through the kidneys the day after the infusion. If you experience any other side effects, please contact your health care provider [immediately](#).

### How long will the process take?

The whole process may take several hours and is done during normal business hours.

### How long will it take for my iron levels to improve?

It will take 2-4 weeks for your iron levels to improve. Your iron levels will be checked 4-6 weeks after this infusion.

### Should I continue to take oral iron?

Usually this is not needed but please check with your health care provider. It is important that you do not take any oral iron for five days after the infusion.

### Ferinject® Infusion Checklist

To be completed by Health Care Provider following discussion with woman

<b>Reason for IV Ferinject®</b>	
<b>Length of time and type of oral iron supplementation</b>	
<b>Symptoms of iron deficiency</b>	
<b>Iron infusion (Ferinject®)</b>	<b>Information</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Consent</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Most recent Haemoglobin(Hb) and Ferritin result</b>	
<b>Hb</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Ferritin</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Pre-pregnancy weight/current weight if not pregnant</b>	
<b>Ferinject® Prescription given (for outpatients)</b>	<b>Date:</b>