

PROCEDURE INFORMATION

IRON INFUSION

Your doctor has requested you book in for an Iron infusion.

How does it work?

A small needle will be placed into your arm for the intravenous drip. The iron preparation (it is a dark red colour fluid) is given slowly, and the nursing staff will be recording your blood pressure, pulse, and temperature at regular intervals. The treatment can take around 30 minutes to one hour.

What is the cost?

As well as your consultation fee there will be a procedural payable on the day.

Before the procedure.

Before your procedure, the doctor will discuss:

- the reason for your iron infusion.
- any viable alternative options for treatment.
- your suitability for an iron infusion.
- the procedure and aftercare in detail.
- risks and benefits.

Please tell your doctor if you:

- Are pregnant or trying to get pregnant.
- Have a history of asthma, eczema, or other allergies.
- Have had a reaction to any type of iron injection or infusion in the past.
- Have a history of high iron levels, haemochromatosis, or liver problems.
- Are on any medications (including over the counter or herbal supplements).
- Currently have (or may have) an infection.

The Day of the procedure and Aftercare.

Have your breakfast/lunch as usual. You do not need to fast for an iron infusion.

Take all your regular medications. You can drive home after the infusion and resume usual activities (unless there is an unexpected reaction). If you experience any side effects or any problems with the

injection site (e.g., discomfort, burning, redness or swelling), inform the nurse (or doctor) giving your infusion immediately.

Side Effects

As with most medications there is the possibility of side effects. Side effects that you may experience are:

- headaches.
- feeling sick or vomiting.
- joint or muscle pain.
- changes to your blood pressure.
- flushing.
- feeling itchy.
- skin staining (brown discolouration) may occur due to leakage of iron into the tissues around the needle (drip) site. This is not common, but the stain can be long lasting or permanent.

These side effects are rare, and you will be closely monitored by the nursing staff during your treatment.

If you are concerned about any of the above, call the practice on 9716 2207 and speak to the practice nurse. She can assess your concerns and organise an appointment with the doctor if needed.