

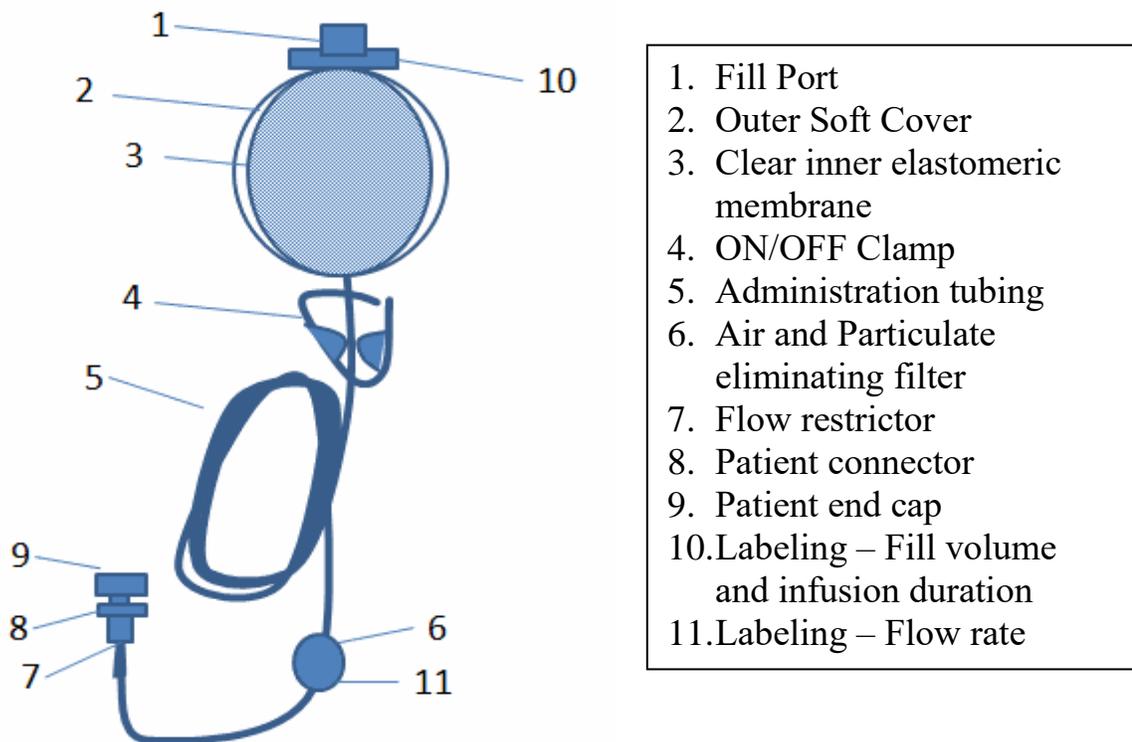
# Infusing Home Chemotherapy Using an Elastomeric Pump

## How will I infuse my chemotherapy (chemo) at home?

You will receive your chemo at home by an elastomeric balloon system. The brand used by the Bronson Cancer Center is the SMARTeZ pump (see images below). When filled with chemo, the inner balloon pushes the drug through your IV at a slow rate. As this happens, you should notice the balloon slowly becoming smaller. The benefits of a balloon system are:

- Light weight
- Easy to use
- Allows you to continue your daily activities
- You don't have to stay in the hospital

Image 1. SMARTeZ Components



## Image 2. How to tell if your chemo is infusing:



**The pump runs at a set rate and will go down in size**

### **What should I expect?**

Your doctor will order chemo to be given by the SMARTeZ pump. The chemo will be prepared by the pharmacy. A nurse in the infusion center will connect the full pump to your IV. The nurse will tell you how long your infusion will take. You will be discharged home after your pump is connected.

**Note:** It is important to check your pump from time to time to ensure the chemo is infusing. It is possible that your infusion may finish infusing a few hours before or after the expected ending time.

**Notify your infusion nurse between 8am and 5pm** if your pump:

- Becomes empty a lot sooner than expected (more than 12 hours before it should be done).
- Becomes disconnected.
- Is leaking.
- Is not getting smaller after 6-12 hours.

Bronson Cancer Center - Battle Creek      269-245-8660

Bronson Cancer Center - Kalamazoo      269-286-7170

**After clinic hours and during holidays, please call the Bronson Cancer Care Pharmacist at: 269-370-2065.**

## How does my body temperature affect my pump?

The rate of the pump is regulated by your body temperature. The pump may run faster if your body temperature is above normal. Avoid anything that will raise or lower the temperature of the pump. The pump will infuse faster or slower if your body becomes very hot or cold.

- **Avoid long** periods of extreme hot or cold.
- **Do not** use a heating pad or heating blankets.
- **Do not** keep your pump under a warm jacket or blanket. This can make the pump too warm and cause the medicine to flow too fast.

## Can I exercise with my pump?

You may exercise while using a pump. Be sure to secure the pump so it won't drop or pull on your IV catheter during exercise.

## How should I wear my pump?

- The pump is placed in a small carrying pouch. You can attach it to your belt loop, clothing or sleeping pillow. It can also be placed on a nearby surface.
- Wear your pump in the area between your armpits and hips. Wearing it higher or lower can make the medicine flow too fast or too slow.
- **Remove the pump from the pouch at least once every 6-12 hours while connected. Make sure that the IV tubing is not clamped and the balloon size is getting smaller.**

## How will I sleep with my pump?

- Clip the pump to your pillow or place it on a bedside chair or table.
- At bedtime, keep your pump next to your side and above your blankets. Don't hang it on your bedpost or put it on the floor.

## How will I keep my pump dry?

- Always keep your IV access site dry. Do not shower or bathe in a tub while the pump is infusing.
- **Do not** get the pump or filter wet.
- **Do not** swim or use a hot tub while the pump is connected to you.  
\*Tip: Shower before your connection and then sponge bathe during your infusion.

## How will I know when my infusion is done?

Always leave the pump connected and unclamped. You can tell that the pump is empty if the balloon is deflated. When the pump has finished the infusion, you may still see some liquid. This is normal.

- **Do not clamp the tubing.**
- **Do not disconnect your infusion by yourself.**
- Return for your appointment to have the pump taken off.

## What are important tips to remember?

- Keep pets and small children away from the pump.
- Place the pump inside the carry case.
- **Do not** travel by air unless approved by your doctor.
- **Do not** clamp pump tubing unless instructed by your care team.
- If you need an MRI, let the staff know you have a pump. It will need to be disconnected during the MRI.