

Infusion Therapy Guide

What to Expect on Treatment Days

Your treatment appointments include lab work, talking to your provider and getting an infusion. We will do our best to keep you on time. There will be 45-60 minutes between each step. Once you have had your blood drawn it takes time for the lab to get the results. Your care team needs these results to decide if it is safe to give you the treatment and approve your treatment plan.

If it is decided you will receive treatment, you will have another 45-60 minute wait. To provide safe, quality care, it is important that time is allowed for the pharmacist and nurse to review your labs and treatment orders. They will also complete safety checks.

It may be an option to have your labs completed the day before your infusion. Please let the infusion schedulers know if you wish to discuss this option. This could decrease your wait time on the day of your infusion.

Infusion Room

The nursing staff have specialized training in treating cancer patients. They will do everything they can to make you feel comfortable during your treatment.

Because the safety of our patients is of utmost importance, the infusion room is an open area where the patient chairs are visible to the nursing staff. This allows the staff to continually observe you.

The amount of time you are in the infusion room depends on the type of treatment you are receiving. The time may be short or may last for several hours. You may also receive fluids for hydration and medicine to prevent nausea and allergic reactions. We will teach you about the medicines you are receiving. We will answer your questions and plan future treatments.

You will get your infusion in a recliner chair. You will want to bring things to help pass the time while you are here. Examples include reading materials, crossword/word search puzzles, a personal laptop computer or tablet. The infusion room has internet access. There are also warm blankets available. Drinks and light snacks are available for patients upon request.

With some treatments, you may have an infusion on multiple days, or you may need to return to the Cancer Center the following day for an injection. In most cases, labs and an office visit with the provider are not required on these days.

Quick Tips for the Infusion Room

- Please discuss the visitor policy with a staff member during your teaching visit.
- Cell phones –We ask that cell phones not be used in the infusion room for conversation. You may use them in the lobby. We do permit silent activities on your phone such as texting.
- Your medicines may require you have someone to drive you home. Your care team will discuss this need during your teaching visit. Your driver may not be able to stay with you during the treatment. Please discuss with a staff member.
- It is important to bring any prescribed, scheduled medicines you take that you might need during the time you are here. Patients with diabetes should be sure to bring their insulin, diabetic supplies and a snack if they will be here several hours. Prescribed pain medicines are especially important to have on hand to ensure a more comfortable visit with us.
- You should eat breakfast and drink fluids the day of your treatment. Eating may help reduce any nausea you may have with your treatment. You do not need to fast or skip breakfast the day of your infusion.
- Bring a lunch if you are scheduled for your treatment during the lunch hour. Please avoid bringing in foods with strong odors that may be unpleasant to other patients.
- Please avoid wearing fragrant lotions, perfumes or cologne in the infusion room. Some patients are sensitive to smells.
- If you have a port-a-cath, please apply your numbing cream to the skin over the port at least 30 minutes prior to your appointment.

After Infusion Treatments

Please refer to your “Teaching Folder” for more information. Call your health care team if you need further help or need to report side effects.

When to Call

As soon as you experience these symptoms, please call the clinic:

Bronson Cancer Center – Battle Creek
300 North Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49017
Medical Oncology 269-245-8660
Radiation Oncology 269-245-8056

Bronson Cancer Center – Kalamazoo
805 John Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
269-286-7170

- Temperature 100.4°F or higher (you need your own thermometer).
- Chills with or without a temperature.
- Nausea or vomiting that cannot be controlled in 24 hours.
- Diarrhea that cannot be controlled in 24 hours using Imodium AD, Kaopectate or other over the counter products.
- Constipation (no bowel movement in 2-3 days) or if you have severe abdominal pain.
- Unusual cough, shortness of breath or lung congestion.
- Any bleeding or excessive bruising.
- Pain or burning with urination.
- Mouth sores or sore throat.
- Sinus pressure, pain or congestion.
- If you develop a rash or a current rash worsens.
- Pain not controlled by current medications.
- Any new or unusual symptom that concerns you.
- New unsteadiness or if you are dizzy or light-headed.

Prescriptions

- Please request all prescriptions refills at your office visit.
- When asking for prescription refills, we need 24-48 hours to refill prescriptions. So please let us know when you have about 7 days of medicine left.
- Call your pharmacy in 48-72 hours to see if your prescription has been filled.
- If you have not been seen recently, you may need an appointment to see your doctor before we can refill your prescription.
- If a doctor from another office ordered the medicine, you will need to call that office for a refill.
- Some pain and anxiety medicines are controlled substances. They are watched to make sure they are not over used. By federal law, these medicines cannot be called in or mailed. You may be asked by your doctor to sign a controlled substance agreement.