



# Intravenous (IV) Iron Infusions

A Guide for Patients



The Ottawa  
Hospital

## **Disclaimer**

This patient education resource is not medical advice. It shares common health facts, advice and tips. Some of the information provided in this resource may not apply to you. Please talk to your doctor, nurse or other health-care team member to see if this information will work for you. They can also answer any questions or concerns that you might have.

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# What is an IV iron infusion?

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Iron is a nutrient in our diet that is important for our health and well being.

An intravenous (IV) iron infusion is a method for quickly bringing iron into your blood stream using a small tube inserted into a vein in your arm.

## Who should get an IV iron infusion?

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IV iron is a treatment option for people with low iron (iron deficiency). Your health care provider may prescribe IV iron infusion if you:

- Cannot tolerate or cannot absorb iron from iron pills.
- Have a surgery planned in the next few months.
- Have chronic kidney disease.
- Are in your second or third trimester of pregnancy and have anemia (low red blood cells or hemoglobin levels).

- Are unable to have blood transfusions for your anemia. Note: IV iron is not made with any human blood products.



### Let your health care provider know if you:

- Are in the first trimester of pregnancy.
- Have had a reaction to any type of iron injection or infusion in the past.
- Have any new or ongoing infections.
- Are taking any new medications such as antibiotics.

## Are side effects and reactions to an IV iron infusion common?

Most patients tolerate the IV iron infusion very well. IV iron infusion is safe for patients of all ages, and safe in second and third trimester of pregnancy. Severe allergic reactions are **rare**.

Some patients may have minor side effects or reactions during or after their IV iron infusion. These include:

- Headache
- Muscle, joint or back pain.
- Flu like symptoms after the infusion.
- Irritation in the vein at the site of injection.
- Facial flushing or hives.
- Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting (throwing up).
- Changes in blood pressure or pulse.



**IV iron infusion is given at the hospital or specialty clinics so that you can be monitored.**

## **Will I need to pay for my IV iron infusion?**

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Some patients may have to pay for their IV iron infusion as it is not covered by Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).

If you have private insurance or benefits you may need to reach out to your benefit plan

provider to see if IV iron is covered. They will ask you to tell them what type of IV iron your doctor ordered and the Drug Identification Number (DIN).

Below are the types of IV iron you can get at The Ottawa Hospital (TOH):

- Monoferic® (ferric derisomaltose).  
DIN # 024777777
- Venofer® (iron sucrose). DIN # 02243716
- PMS – Iron sucrose (generic version of Venofer® ). DIN # 02502917
- Ferrlecit® (ferric gluconate).  
DIN # 02243333

You can also call the TOH Drug Access Coordinator who can help you find out the best way to get the cost of IV iron infusion covered.

- TOH Drug Access Coordinator:  
(613) 737-8899, extension 72863

You can also visit the Ontario government website for more information about coverage for prescription drugs.

# How will I get my IV iron infusion at The Ottawa Hospital (TOH)?

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Your health care provider will order your IV iron infusion at a clinic called Medical Day Care Unit (MDCU) that can be either at the Civic, Riverside or General Hospital location.

Your health care provider will send a prescription for your IV iron to the hospital pharmacy. You do not need to pick it up.

TOH Drug Access Coordinator will call you to help you with the funding for your IV iron infusion.

The MDCU booking clerk will call you to schedule an appointment for your IV iron infusion.

## What if I cannot come for my MDCU appointment?

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If you cannot come for your IV iron infusion, call the MDCU at least 24 hours before your appointment to reschedule.





**If you are sick or cannot come for your infusion, call the MDCU as soon as possible.**

Here is contact information for TOH MDCUs:

Contact Us			
Campus	Civic Campus	General Campus	Riverside Campus
Hours of Operation	Mon - Fri 0700 - 1500	7 days/week 0730-1930	Mon - Fri 0730 - 1700
Location of Clinic	1053 Carling Ave. Section D, Room D102	501 Smyth Rd. 5th floor, Room 5333	1967 Riverside Dr. 6th Floor, Room 6-23
Reception Telephone	613-798-5555 ext. 15421	613-737-8899 ext. 72824	613-738-8400 ext. 81012

If you do not come for your scheduled appointment or call us to let us know that you cannot come, this is called a "no show".

When you are a no show, you will have to pay for the already prepared IV iron.

## **What should I expect at the IV iron infusion appointment?**

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You do not need any special preparation before your iron infusion.

A nurse at the MDCU will insert the IV (tube) into your arm, start the IV iron infusion, and check on you often. You will need to stay for 30 minutes after your infusion to make sure you have no reaction to your infusion.

You do not need to take your iron pill on the infusion day. Ask your health care provider if or when you should restart your iron pills after the infusion.

## How long is the IV iron infusion appointment?

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It depends on the type of IV iron that you will get and if you tolerate it well.

After the infusion, nurses will monitor you for 30 minutes for any reactions. If you have no reaction, you can drive home and return to your normal activities.



**Usually, people stay at the hospital for a total of 1 to 3 hours to get their IV iron infusion.**

# What if I feel unwell after the appointment?

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After you leave the clinic, call 9-1-1 or go to your nearest emergency department right away if you:

- Have trouble breathing or have chest pain.
- Have swelling of your throat, face, mouth, tongue, legs or hands.
- Have severe belly pain, nausea, vomiting or rash.



**If you need more information or have any questions or concerns about IV iron, speak with your health care provider.**

## To learn more

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There are other resources related to iron prepared by The Ottawa Hospital that you may like to read:

- Understanding Iron Deficiency Anemia: A Guide for Patients
- Iron and your Diet: A Guide for Patients
- Iron Pills: A Guide for Patients

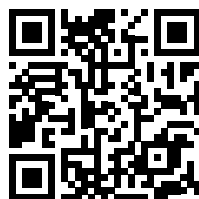
## Notes

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Is it welcoming and respectful of your background, culture, and identity? Your opinion is important to us. Please fill out this [survey](#) or contact the Patient Education team at [patienteducation@toh.ca](mailto:patienteducation@toh.ca)



## Do you need this information in a different format?

Please tell a member of your health-care team so that they can provide you with this information in a format that works for you. This resource is available in English and in French. Cette ressource est disponible en anglais et en français.



## Booklet information

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