



Receiving Chemotherapy at Home with an Ambulatory Infusion Pump

You will receive at least one of your chemotherapy medications at home through an ambulatory infusion pump (also called AIP or pump). This handout offers information about this. We use the CADD-Solis® Infusion Pump. Chemotherapy treatment is also called systemic therapy.

How the pump is used

- The pump gives you chemotherapy medication(s) through your PICC or PORT line while you are at home.
- Your oncologist will prescribe how fast the pump gives you the chemotherapy medications. The nurse at the cancer centre programs your pump.
- You stay connected to the pump for as long as the doctor has prescribed. This is based on your treatment plan.
- You may need to come to the cancer centre every day to have your pump checked and a new medication bag added by the nurse. You will be given the information you need if this applies to you.
- You may need to have your pump disconnected by the home care nurse if your chemotherapy medication finishes on the weekend. You will be given the information you need if this applies to you.
- **How to carry your pump**
 - Carry the pump in the carrying case/pouch given to you.
 - Keep the pump and medication bag out of direct sunlight or extreme hot/cold temperatures.
 - Do not drop the pump or medication bag as this may pull out your PICC or PORT line.

What do if your PORT or PICC line is pulled out

If you have a PICC

1. Apply pressure to your PICC site with a clean bandaid. Leave the bandaid on.
2. Follow the directions on the [Safety at Home If You Have a Systemic Therapy Spill](#) handout.
3. Call the cancer centre. If the cancer centre is closed, go to the emergency department at the hospital closest to you.

If you have a PORT

1. There is a sharp needle at the end of your PORT line.
2. To keep you and others safe, put your PORT line and needle into a pail or large container.

3. Press the power button on the ambulatory infusion pump to turn it off.
4. Follow the directions on the “[Safety at Home If You Have a Systemic Therapy Spill](#)” handout.
5. Apply pressure to your PORT site with a clean bandaid. Leave the bandaid on.
6. Call the cancer centre. If the cancer centre is closed, go to the emergency department at the hospital closest to you.

How you know the pump is working

- Press the white button on the top left hand corner.
- You will see a screen with a green panel that says “running” at the top. This means your ambulatory infusion pump is working.

What do if an alarm goes off on your pump (beeping sound)

- The screen on the pump will tell you why the alarm is beeping and what to do.
- See page 3 for who to call if the alarm won't stop beeping.

Replacing pump's batteries

Change the batteries as soon as possible if you see, 'battery low', 'battery depleted' or 'rechargeable battery reached end of use' in the pump display. Use only new batteries. Do not mix new batteries with used ones. Only use the AA batteries given to you in the carrying bag.

How to change the batteries

1. Press the stop/start button to stop the pump.
2. Press the power switch to turn off the pump. You will see a 'power down' message in the display. Press 'yes'. The display screen should now appear blank (with no message).
3. Turn the knob on the door counterclockwise using your finger or a coin to open the battery door.
4. Remove the old batteries.
5. Insert the new AA batteries (4 of them)
6. Close the battery door.
7. Turn the knob on the door clockwise to lock it.
8. Press and hold the power switch to turn the power on. You will hear 6 beeps when the pump is powered up. The ambulatory infusion pump will not turn on if the batteries are not in correctly.
9. You will see “loss of power while running, replace AA batteries” on the screen. Press “acknowledge” as you have already changed the batteries.
10. Press the 'stop/start' button to restart the pump.
11. You will see “start pump” on the screen. Press “yes”.
12. The top right corner of your pump will be green, and you will see “running” on the screen.

At home with your pump

1. Bathing/showering

You can have a bath. You need to put the pump and medication bag in a plastic bag on a flat surface outside the bathtub. Do not get the pump wet. Do not shower with the pump.

2. Sleeping

Keep the pump and medication bag in the carrying bag when you are sleeping.

3. Activity

Continue your normal activities. Do not drop the pump or medication bag as this may pull out your PICC or PORT line.

Safety at home

Read the “[Safety at Home When You Are On Systemic Therapy Treatment](#)” handout. Directions on where to find the video is included in the handout. It is safe for you to be around other adults, children and pets while your pump is giving you your chemotherapy medication. Do not let your pet chew or play with your PICC or PORT line or the medication bag.

Your chemotherapy medication can spill if you have a leak from your PICC or PORT line or if the medication bag is disconnected or is punctured. Handle chemotherapy medications safely to protect you and anyone who gives you care. Read the “[Safety at Home If You Have a Systemic Therapy Spill](#)” handout. This handout will tell you what you need to do for a spill or leak.

It is important to call the cancer centre if:

- You see blood in your PICC or PORT line
- Your ambulatory infusion pump alarms and you don't know what to do
- Your PICC or PORT dressing becomes wet or damp

Call to talk to a nurse in the Systemic Therapy Suite at 905-576-8711 extension 34030. The Systemic Therapy Suite at the cancer centre is open Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5:30 pm and closed on weekends and holidays. When the cancer centre is closed, go to the emergency department at the hospital closest to you.

Talk to a member of your healthcare team if you have questions or do not understand any information in this handout.

Last reviewed: September 2024