

# Going home with a chemotherapy pump

Cancer Services

Leaflet No: 753

Version: 5

Information for Patients

Produced: Nov 2024

Review: Nov 2027

## Introduction

As part of your chemotherapy treatment you need to have a continuous infusion of one of your drugs. To prevent you having to stay in the hospital for this, you will have a line inserted into a vein that can be left in for a long period (a PICC or Hickman line). A chemotherapy pump will be attached to this line.



## Contact numbers

Chemotherapy suite (general enquiries) **0116 258 6107**

8.30 am - 6.00 pm Monday to Friday (except bank holidays)

**24 hour emergency contact number 0808 178 2212**

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## Who will remove the pump when my treatment has finished?

A community nurse will visit to remove the pump once the treatment has completed. Your chemotherapy nurse will organise this.

The nurse will visit on a weekly basis to redress the line and to flush it to prevent the line from blocking.

You will be provided with a yellow bin for the community nurse to dispose of the chemotherapy pump and other equipment used. This bin should be returned to the hospital once all your treatment is complete or is full. Do not return this to your GP surgery.

You will also be provided with enough supplies for the community nurse to care for the line for the first week. The community nurse will order further supplies after this.

You will be given a 'letter of authorisation' which is to be given to the community nurse and this allows them to flush the line with the drugs prescribed.

## When should I contact the hospital?

**You should contact the hospital immediately if:**

- your line or pump becomes damaged or leaks
- your arm or chest becomes red, painful or swollen
- your pump does not appear to be emptying during the first 24 hours. Please check that the clamp on the tubing and/or line is open.

If your pump has not emptied within the expected time, contact the hospital. It is not necessary to contact the hospital during night hours if this occurs, but you should do this the following day.

## How do I care for my line?

If you have a PICC line, you should try to avoid bending your arm for long periods as this can prevent the drug from infusing into the vein.

Your pump can be carried in a pocket or in a small across-body or shoulder bag. Use whichever method is most comfortable for you.

Avoid having the tubing hanging loosely to prevent accidental damage.

**PICC line** - you can buy, from any main chemist, a waterproof sleeve which you should wear when showering or bathing. These sleeves can also be obtained on prescription. Please ask your GP.

**Hickman line** - you may shower or bathe. If your dressing becomes dislodged during this activity replace it with a new sterile dressing. Avoid using scissors or razors or any sharp object near your line.

## What should I do if the pump leaks?

If your pump leaks onto your skin, wash thoroughly with large amounts of warm soapy water.

**Contact the hospital for further advice.**

If your pump leaks onto your clothing, this should be washed separately from any other laundry at the highest temperature the garment will allow.

If your pump leaks onto any surface wash this in large amounts of warm soapy water.

## Emergency contact number:

**24 hour emergency contact number**

**0808 178 2212**

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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