

Iron Infusion

This Leaflet may answer some common questions about iron infusions. This does not contain all available information regarding the procedure, product information or other guidelines.

Please book an appointment to see a GP to discuss further to ascertain if this procedure is appropriate in your case.

Information in this leaflet is adapted from the SA health Bloodsafe information sheet and the WA Health Department checklist.

Why is Iron important?

Our bodies require iron to make haemoglobin, a part of red blood cells that carries oxygen around our body. If your iron levels are low, it may cause you to feel tired and affect your daily activities.

Iron deficiency anaemia is when your iron levels get so low, the haemoglobin levels fall below normal.

What is an Iron Infusion?

The most common way to treat iron deficiency is oral medication in the form of tablets or a liquid. In some cases an intravenous (IV) iron infusion may be suggested by your doctor. This procedure includes a solution containing iron being administered into your vein via a cannula.

IV iron might be needed if you:

- Are not able to take iron tablets / liquid
- Are not responding to iron tablets / liquid or not absorbing them
- Need to get your iron levels up quickly (eg. before major surgery, late in pregnancy or to avoid blood transfusion)
- If you have chronic kidney disease or chronic heart failure Your doctor should explain why you need IV iron and the other options.

Things to discuss with your doctor if you are looking to get this procedure done:

- Are pregnant / trying to get pregnant. IV iron should be avoided in the first trimester.
- Have a history of asthma, eczema or other allergies.
- Have had a reaction to any type of iron injection or infusion in the past.
- Have a history of high iron levels, haemochromatosis or liver problems.
- Are on any medications (including herbal and over the counter medicines).
- Have (or may have) an infection at the moment.

A discussion with your GP will give you more information and follow up with iron levels:

- Why/ if you need to have an IV iron infusion
- Other options for your treatment
- What the procedure entails and what are the next steps
- Any other questions about side effects and effectiveness of the procedure.