

## **Care of a suspected *Extravasation* (flushout of chemotherapy) (1 of 2)**



If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: [customer-care@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:customer-care@salisbury.nhs.uk)

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: [www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily](http://www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily) or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: [patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk) if you would like a reference list.

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There is a chance that some of the chemotherapy you received today has leaked out of your vein and under your skin. This is known as extravasation and is a rare but known complication of chemotherapy.

To reduce any complications of this we have carried out a procedure called "flushout". The drug was flushed out of the surrounding area to prevent damage to the skin and tissue beneath the skin. We gave you a local anaesthetic in the surrounding tissue to minimise the discomfort whilst the procedure was carried out. A dressing has been applied to the area to keep it clean and dry. This dressing will need to be changed regularly. Initially the dressing change may need to be done at the hospital and then by a district nurse or your GP practice.

A member of the chemotherapy nursing team will keep in contact with you to ensure the recovery of this continues without further problem.

You will also have an appointment with a member of the Plastics Team to ensure the area of extravasation is monitored whilst healing.

It is important that you follow these instructions to minimise any discomfort or irritation this may cause.

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### Call 01722 341930 if you:

- notice any changes at the site including an increase in redness, pain, blisters, streaking down the arm, any signs of skin breakdown or swelling
- develop a temperature of more than 37.5°C
- have any questions, problems or concerns.

### Special points

- Apply a **HOT/COLD** (nurse to advise) pack gently to the site where your cannula was placed, 4 to 5 times a day for 20 minutes over the next 24 hours. This will decrease the swelling and discomfort and may reduce irritation to the tissue.
- 1% hydrocortisone cream will be given to you. You should apply a thin layer twice a day until any swelling or redness stops. Use a cotton wool ball or tissue to apply it and wash your hands afterwards.
- after showering dry the site gently. If you do take a bath avoid immersing the site in water; a waterproof dressing may be required.

- elevate the arm on a pillow whenever possible for a day.
- gently exercise the affected arm or hand.
- take mild painkillers if necessary.