

Information for  
patients & families

# Caring for Your Elastomeric Ambulatory Infusor (Baxter Infusor™)



My pump is:

20/24 hours  
(purple top)



My pump is:

46/48 hours  
(dark red top)



My pump is:

7 days  
(bright pink top)

I should check my pump every:

6-8 hours  12 hours

Treatment - Systemic

# Elastomeric Ambulatory Infusor™

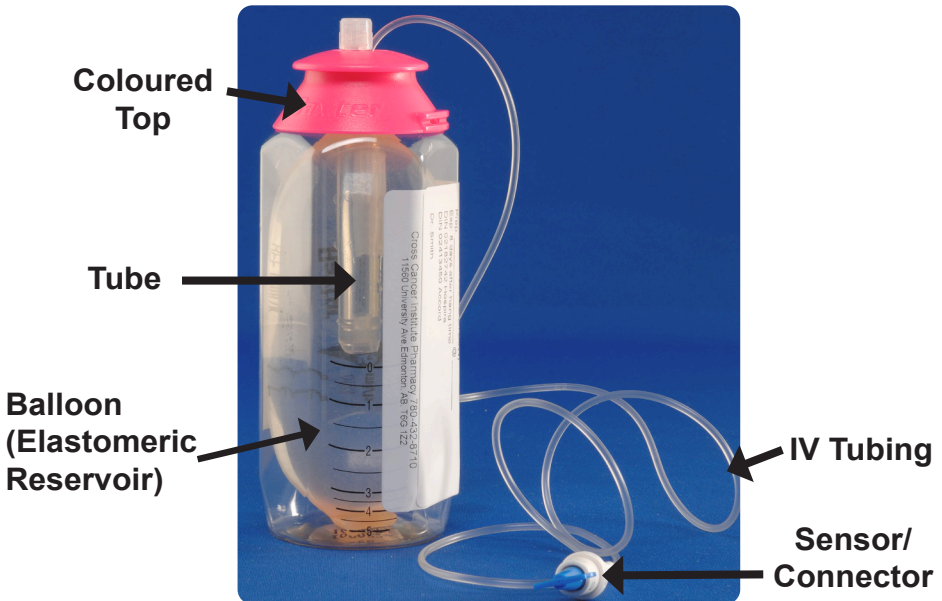
An Elastomeric Ambulatory Infusor™ delivers your medicine to you while you do your everyday activities. The infusor has a balloon filled with medicine. You may hear it called a "baby bottle", "infusor", or "pump". You wear it in a pouch around your waist or chest area.



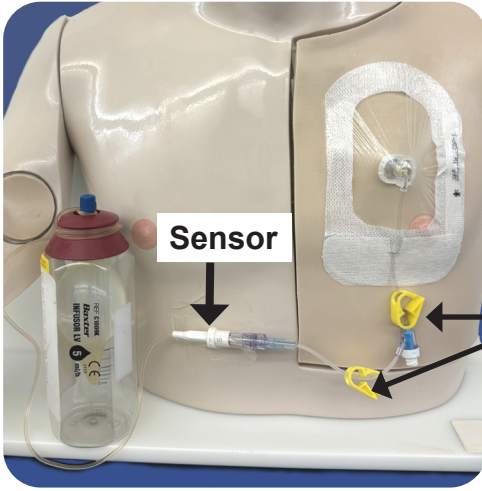
Pumps can have different coloured tops for different rates of medicine delivery. You should expect the same coloured top on your pump every time you have one connected.

If the colour of the top on your pump is **different than your last one**, tell your healthcare team about it right away.

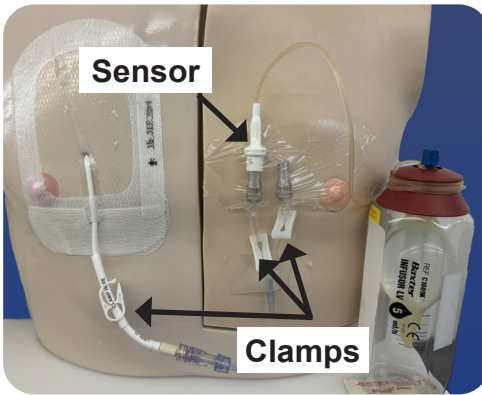
## The parts of my pump:



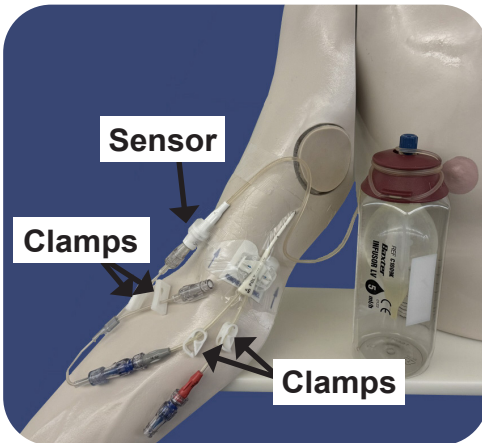
What it looks like:



Infusor attached to an IVAD (Implanted Venous Access Device)



Infusor attached to a Tunnelled CVAD (Central Venous Access Device)



Infusor attached to a PICC (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter)

# How the pump works

The balloon gently and continuously pushes the medicine through the IV tubing and into your Venous Access Device or IV. The balloon will slowly empty and get smaller as you get your medicine.

## How do I check if the balloon is emptying, or getting smaller?

The balloon will empty very slowly over several hours or days. This depends on the type of pump you get.

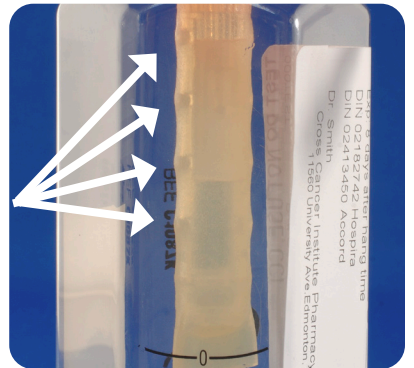
To check if it is emptying:

- Hold the pump at your eye level and make a note of what line the bottom of the balloon is next to.
- Your healthcare provider will tell you how often to check the balloon. The balloon is emptying if you can see the bottom part of the balloon has moved up the lines toward the "0" and the width has gotten smaller.



The pump is completely empty when you can see all 8 bumps (4 on each side of the tube).

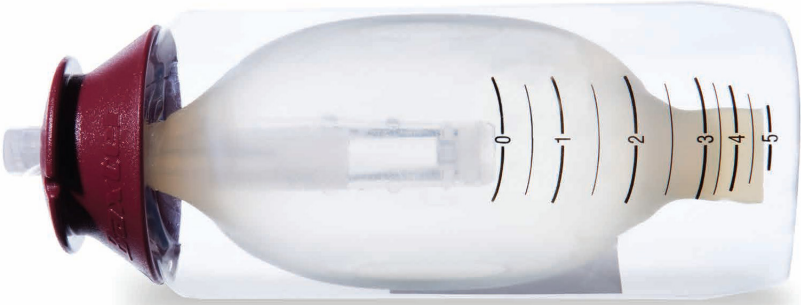
bumps



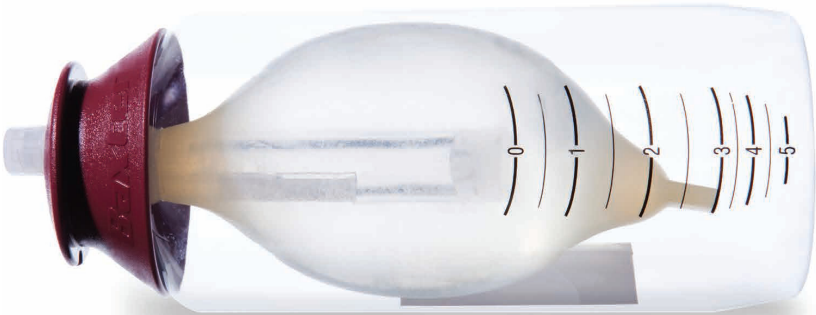
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Here is what a **46/48 hour pump** might look like at different stages (your pump may not look exactly the same):

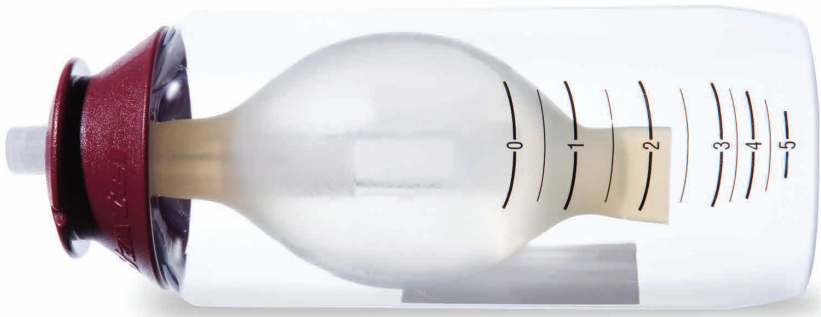
**After 12 hours**



**After 24 hours**



**After 36 hours**

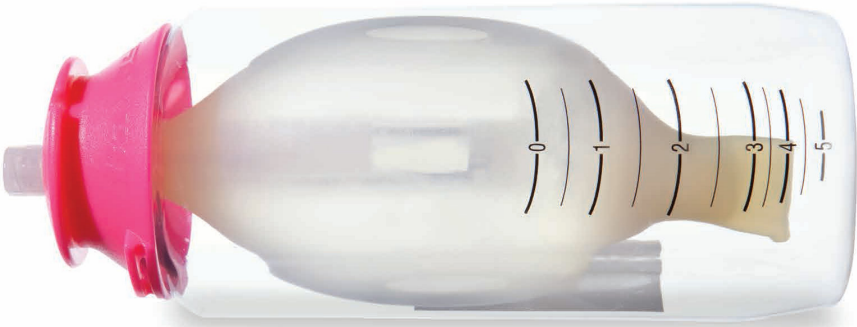


Here is what a **7 day pump** might look like at different stages (your pump may not look exactly the same):

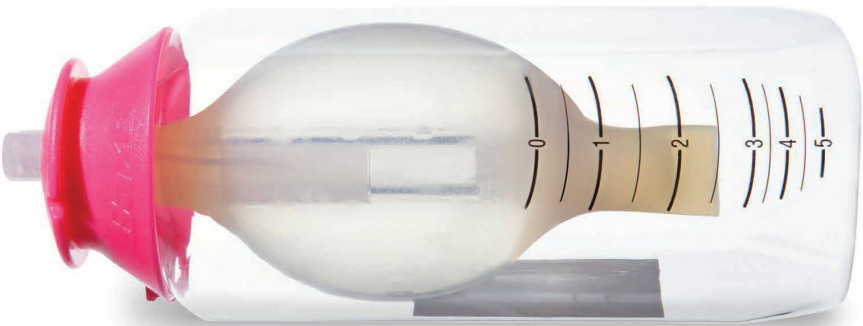
**After 2 days**



**After 4 days**



**After 6 days**



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## What do I do if the balloon is not emptying?

- Check the clamps on your Venous Access Device or IV to make sure they are open.
- Check the IV tubing to make sure it is not twisted or kinked.
- Call the contact number you have been given.

## What do I do if the balloon is emptying too fast?

- Clamp IV tubing.
- Call the contact number you have been given.

## What do I do if my pump leaks?

- Check that the connections are tight. If you need to tighten the connections, remember to wear nitrile gloves from your spill kit.
- If the pump is still leaking and you do not know how to disconnect it, phone the contact number you have been given.
- If it is still leaking and your nurse taught you how to disconnect your pump, you may disconnect it (see the booklet “How to Disconnect Your Elastomeric Ambulatory Infusor”).



### **Call the contact number you have been given right away if:**

- your balloon is emptying too fast
- your balloon is not emptying
- your pump is leaking
- you got medicine in your eyes or on your skin

**The medication in your infusor is hazardous.**

You may see it called "cytotoxic". This means it can be harmful to you or others if spilled or leaked.

## What do I do with medicine that leaks from the pump?

<b>Medicine leaked on or in:</b>	<b>What you can do:</b>
Your eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keeping your eyes open, rinse your eyes under running water for at least 10 to 15 minutes.</li><li>• Get medical attention right away.</li></ul>
Your skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wash the area with soap and running water for at least 10 to 15 minutes.</li><li>• Tell your healthcare team as soon as possible.</li></ul>
Your clothes or linens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wash them separately from other clothes and linens</li><li>• Wash through 2 complete washing machine cycles before you wear or use them again.</li></ul>
Surfaces (for example, floors and tables)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow the spill kit instructions to clean the surfaces.</li></ul>
Paper materials (for example Kleenex, books, magazines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you spill medicine on paper items that you cannot clean, add them to the spill kit to return to your cancer centre for disposal.</li></ul>



## Taking care of your pump



### Check your pump

- Your healthcare provider will tell you how often to check your pump (checked off on front page).
- Make sure the connector is taped directly on your skin so it stays at skin temperature.
- Check the balloon to see if it is emptying properly (page 4). This may happen very slowly, especially for a 7 day pump. Sometimes it is hard to tell if a 7 day pump is emptying for the first couple of days, but continue with your checks.



### The sensor (also called a connector)

- The sensor should be close to the same level as your pump. When the sensor is at the same level as the pump, the medicine flows at the proper rate.
- It is okay if the sensor and the pump are not close to the same level for short periods of time (for example during a shower or during your radiation treatment).



### Carrying the pump

- Keep the pump in a carrying pouch or a pocket where it will not fall out.
- Try to wear the pump at the same height as the connector.



### Travel

- It is safe to travel on planes that have pressurized cabins. Ask your oncologist for a travel letter to help you get through security. Remember to take your spill kit with you.



## Sleeping

- Put the pump on its side and under your pillow when you sleep. You can also leave it in the pouch and wear it around your waist.



## Bathing

- Put the pump in a plastic bag or on a flat surface outside the shower or bath. Try to keep the pump close to the same level as the connector.
- Do **not** put the pump in the water or in a direct stream of water.



## Temperature

- Protect the pump from heat and cold. If the pump gets too hot or cold, it will change the rate of the flow. It should stay as close to room temperature as possible.



## Safety for pets or children

- The pump is safe to use around pets or children.
- Make sure pets or children cannot chew or play with the pump or the IV tubing.



## Sitting

- Keep the pump in your pouch or on a surface, such as a table.



## Exercise

- It is okay to exercise with the pump as long as it stays close to room temperature and does not get wet.



## Sunlight

- Keep the pump out of direct sunlight.

## What do I need from the cancer centre before I go home with my pump?

You will need:

- spill kit
- zip lock bag
- pair of nitrile gloves
- phone numbers to call when you need help



### **Speak Up!**

**You are the most important member of your healthcare team. If you have questions or concerns, we are here to help.**

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The information is to be updated every 3 years, or as new clinical evidence emerges. If there are any concerns or updates with this information, please email [cancerpatienteducation@ahs.ca](mailto:cancerpatienteducation@ahs.ca).

For other Cancer Care Alberta resources,  
visit [cancercarealberta.ca](https://cancercarealberta.ca)



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