

## **What is Ferinject®?**

Ferinject® (ferric carboxymaltose) is an intravenous (IV) iron treatment that can help restore iron levels in people with iron deficiency or iron-deficiency anaemia. This treatment can be a faster alternative to oral iron supplements, especially if they have been ineffective or if quick iron replenishment is needed. Ferinject® is usually administered in a single session or in divided doses depending on your doctor's recommendation.

## **Why Do I Need Ferinject®?**

Iron is crucial for producing haemoglobin, which carries oxygen through your blood to various organs. Iron deficiency can lead to symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, and difficulty concentrating. Ferinject® is often recommended when:

- Oral iron supplements are ineffective or cause side effects.
- Rapid iron replacement is required (e.g., due to severe anaemia).
- Iron absorption issues, such as those associated with inflammatory bowel disease or after gastrointestinal surgery.

## **How is Ferinject® Administered?**

Ferinject® is given through an intravenous (IV) line, allowing iron to be delivered directly into your bloodstream. You'll typically receive the infusion while comfortably seated in the clinic, and the process usually takes around 30-45 minutes. However, plan to stay a bit longer to allow time for preparation and monitoring. Allowing up to 60 minutes is advisable.

## **Before the Infusion**

To prepare for the Ferinject® infusion:

1. **Medication Check:** Inform your doctor or nurse of any medications or supplements you're currently taking.
2. **Allergies:** Let your doctor or nurse know if you have any known allergies, particularly to medications or previous iron infusions.
3. **Hydration:** Drink plenty of water before your appointment, as this can make the IV placement easier and reduce possible side effects.
4. **Light Meal:** Eat a light meal before your infusion to help minimize any potential lightheadedness during or after the procedure.

## **What to Expect During the Infusion**

During the infusion, a nurse will:

Ask you to lie on an examination couch and provide you with a blanket.

Place an IV line into a vein in your arm.

Administer the Ferinject® solution over 30-45 minutes.

Observe you closely for any reactions.

You may feel some sensations at the injection site or experience slight dizziness, but these effects are typically brief.

## **Potential Side Effects**

Ferinject® is generally well-tolerated, but as with any treatment, side effects may occur. Common side effects include:

- **Mild headache**
- **Nausea or upset stomach**
- **Temporary changes in taste**
- **Discomfort at the injection site**

Rare side effects can include allergic reactions, such as rash, itching, or breathing difficulties. Please alert the staff immediately if you experience any symptoms during or after the infusion. In very rare cases, serious reactions can occur, so you may be monitored for a short time following the infusion.

### **After the Infusion**

Once the infusion is complete, you may resume normal activities. You may be asked to stay for approximately 15 minutes observation after the infusion. Some patients experience mild fatigue or nausea, which usually resolves within a day. To support recovery:

- **Stay Hydrated:** Continue to drink water to stay well-hydrated.
- **Avoid Strenuous Activities:** Rest if you feel tired; avoid heavy exercise for 24 hours.
- **Monitor for Side Effects:** If you experience any concerning symptoms after leaving the clinic, such as rash, swelling, or breathing difficulties, seek medical attention immediately.

### **When Will I See Results?**

Ferinject® can improve iron levels relatively quickly, but full effects may take a few weeks. A follow-up appointment may be scheduled to monitor your progress and determine if further treatment is necessary.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- **Can I drive home after the infusion?**  
Yes, most patients can drive after the infusion, but if you feel lightheaded or tired, arrange for a friend or family member to drive you.
- **Can I take oral iron supplements after Ferinject®?**  
You usually won't need additional iron supplements right away. Please consult with your doctor before taking any new iron supplements post-infusion.
- **Is Ferinject® covered by Medicare?**  
At this point in time, there is no rebate claimable for Ferinject® from either Medicare or your private health fund.

### **Resources**

Full Consumer Medicine Information can be located at <https://www.cslseqirus.com.au/-/media/seqirus-australia/products/medicine-information/au-ferinject-cmi-apr24.pdf>

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

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