

You have been given this leaflet because you have low levels of iron in your body and your doctor believes that Ferinject® (ferric carboxymaltose) is an appropriate treatment for you.

This leaflet explains:

- What Ferinject® is
- How it is used and;
- What you can expect from your treatment

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please speak to your doctor or nurse.

Iron is an essential element required for the oxygen-carrying capacity of haemoglobin in red blood cells and muscle tissue. Iron is also involved in many other functions necessary for maintenance of life in the human body. If you don't have enough iron, your body can't make enough healthy oxygen-carrying red blood cells. A lack of red blood cells due to iron deficiency is known as iron deficiency anaemia. Iron replacement therapy is used to replenish your body's iron stores and treat iron deficiency anaemia. Regular screening helps detect iron deficiency early. It is important to remember, even after treatment, to return to your Doctor for blood tests and evaluation regularly.

What is Ferinject®?

Ferinject® is an intravenous iron replacement treatment for patients who have low levels of iron in their body. Ferinject® is not a blood product. Over time low levels of iron can lead to anaemia, where red blood cells are either smaller and/or fewer than normal.

What is it used for?

Ferinject® is used to increase the amount of iron in your body when oral iron preparations are ineffective or cannot be used. It is also used when there is a clinical need to deliver iron rapidly. Increasing the iron in your body is intended to prevent you from becoming anaemic, or to reverse anaemia.

How does it work?

Ferinject® contains iron in the form of tiny particles of iron with a sugar coating. The iron is released steadily and is able to be taken up by appropriate storage sites and used in your body. Iron is required by the red blood cells in your body to make haemoglobin. Haemoglobin is required to help carry oxygen and provide it to the tissues in your body.

What will your doctor want to know before you start treatment?

Your doctor will want to talk to you before you start treatment, as not all medicines are suitable for everyone. Before you are given Ferinject®, your doctor may ask you about the following:

- Your full medical history
- Whether you are taking any other medicines, including those that don't need a prescription
- Whether you have allergies
- Whether you have an infection
- If you are pregnant or if you are planning to become pregnant

How will you receive your treatment?

Each administration of Ferinject should take approximately **15 minutes**. The appointment will take a little longer to ensure the doctor and nurse have time to prepare and monitor you. Please check with your doctor or nurse how long to plan for the appointment. Your doctor will discuss with you whether one or more visits are required to increase your iron level to the right range for you.

You will be treated with Ferinject® by your doctor or nurse in two possible ways:



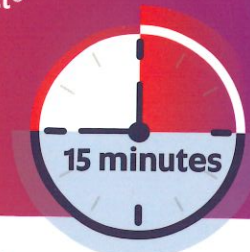
By undiluted **injection**, directly into a vein



By diluted **infusion**, given directly into a vein

Each administration of Ferinject® should take approximately 15 minutes.

Additionally, you will be monitored for 30 minutes after the infusion.



What possible side effects might you experience?

As with all medicines, Ferinject® can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them. Your doctor will discuss possible side effects with you. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you feel unwell, or think you may be experiencing any side effects whilst you are being treated with Ferinject®.

Common side effects

Occurring in less than 1 in 10 and more than 1 in 100 patients

- Nausea
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Flushing
- Injection/infusion site reactions
- High blood pressure
- Low blood phosphate levels

Uncommon side effects

Occurring in less than 1 in 100 and more than 1 in 1000 patients

- Skin rash and skin reactions at injection site
 - Small (uncommon) risk of long-lasting brown skin discolouration
- Inform staff immediately if there is any discomfort, burning, redness or swelling during the infusion.

Iron treatments that are given directly into the vein can cause severe allergic reactions. These allergic reactions may include chest pain; swelling of the face, mouth, or tongue; or breathing difficulties.

Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience any symptoms during or after your administration. Your doctor or nurse who is treating you will monitor you for reactions for at least 30 minutes after your treatment and will provide treatment if required.

For more information on Ferinject® and possible side-effects, read the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) available from your pharmacist, doctor, nurse or online at www.ebs.tga.gov.au, simply use the code to visit the site





What happens after your treatment with Ferinject®?

- You can usually go home 30 minutes after your Ferinject® treatment has finished.
- You may require another dose of Ferinject® based on your body's iron needs.
- Your doctor or nurse will continue to check that the amount of iron in your body stays within the right range for you.



When will I feel better?

The time taken for your haemoglobin levels to improve is different for everyone. It will depend on:

- How iron deficient and anaemic you are
- How efficient your bone marrow is at making new red blood cells



Appointment date tracker

You might find the table below useful to make a note of your next appointment and any questions you may have or points you would like to discuss with your doctor or nurse.

Next Appt.	Notes/Points to Discuss

Use the space below to note down emergency numbers and contact details for your nurse and/or doctor so you can get help quickly if you need it.

If at any time you feel unsure about anything or need information or advice, contact your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

General Practitioner _____

Telephone _____

Specialist _____

Telephone _____

Nurse _____

Telephone _____

Pharmacist _____

Telephone _____

Further Information

For further information on Ferinject® please speak to your healthcare professional, who may contact CSL Seqirus on **1800 642 865**

Always read the Ferinject® CMI leaflet provided by your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Ferinject® is a registered trademark of Vifor (International) AG, Switzerland. Ferinject® is managed in Australia by CSL Seqirus.

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Patient Leaflet

