

Ambulatory Infusion Unit



What is an infusion?

An infusion is one way to give therapies to a child through their vein (by IV). The therapy may be:

- Blood products, such as red blood cells or platelets
- Chemotherapy to treat cancer
- Biotherapies
- Immunoglobulin
- Antibiotics or medicines for other conditions

Who needs infusion services?

We work with a variety of children who have conditions that require infusions. For example, we see patients with:

- Blood diseases
- Cancer
- Immune disorders
- Genetic abnormalities
- Gastrointestinal and rheumatology disorders
- Other conditions

What should we bring to the visit?

Bring activities or quiet toys from home that your child can play with during the visit. Long clinic visits and infusions can feel even longer when your child is bored. We have some toys and videos, but things from home may be best for your child. Your child may want to bring a movie to watch during their visit.

Snacks and lunch can be provided for patients getting long infusions. However, your child may still want to bring their favorite snack.

If your child takes other medicines and is scheduled for a regular dose during the infusion visit, it has to come from the Children's pharmacy. If your child will need another medicine, you can talk to your child's doctor before the visit.

How can I prepare my child for an infusion visit?

- Ask the doctor who referred you for the infusion for a prescription for EMLA cream. This is a cream that you put on your child's skin to help numb the skin before the IV is started. Put it on your child's skin 1 hour before the IV is placed.
- If your child has a history of anxiety with IV starts or other pokes, talk with your child's nurse or call one of our Child Life Specialists at 206-987-3646. You can talk with them about other ideas that may help your child cope.

To Learn More

- Call the main hospital number and ask for the Ambulatory Infusion Unit: Seattle Children's Hospital
206-987-2000 (Voice)
206-987-2280 (TTY)
- Ask your child's nurse or doctor
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers
206-987-2280 (TTY).

Who can stay with my child during the visit?

We expect parents to stay with their child during their visit. If this is not possible, contact the Ambulatory Infusion Unit at 206-987-2106 at least 24 hours before your child's visit. Each infusion space has room for your child and 2 family members or caregivers. Siblings are welcome to stay in the infusion unit during your child's visit if they are with an adult.

To prevent the spread of illness, we request that sick family members or visitors not come to the Ambulatory Infusion Unit.

If your child has an appointment in the unit and is sick or has a cough, please contact your child's healthcare provider to find out if you should keep the appointment. If you are told to keep the appointment, let the registration staff know your child is sick. Also tell them if your child needs to be kept away from other patients because of sickness. These are called isolation precautions.

If your child's healthcare provider says to cancel the appointment, call the Ambulatory Infusion Unit at 206-987-2106 to let them know.

Where is the Ambulatory Infusion Unit?

The Ambulatory Infusion Unit is on the 6th floor, near the Balloon elevators. It is attached to our Hematology/Oncology Clinic. Please park in the Whale garage and register at the 6th floor registration desk.

What can we expect for a weekend appointment?

We see patients from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. Our reception desk is not open on the weekend so you will need to come into the clinic through our back door. To get here, come to the Hematology/Oncology Clinic on the 6th floor. Walk down the hall to the left of the reception desk, past the waiting room area and towards the Rocket elevators. The Infusion Unit will be through a door on your right.

We ask that you be on time for your appointment. Please call the hospital operator at 206-987-2000 and ask to speak to a nurse in the Ambulatory Infusion Unit if you will be late.