

### Can Ferinject interfere with my other medicines?

Ferinject should not be given at the same time as other iron preparations taken by mouth, as it may stop them from being absorbed.

If you need to take iron preparations by mouth, these should be started at least 5 days after the last dose of intravenous iron.

**For further information**, please refer to the Ferinject patient information leaflet found on [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk)

### Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or [whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net)

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please email [whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net). We will try our best to meet your needs.

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## Ferinject® (ferric carboxymaltose) Intravenous Iron

### A patient's guide



### What is Ferinject?

Ferinject is a medicine that contains iron.

### Why am I having Ferinject?

Ferinject is used to treat iron deficiency anaemia when:

- oral iron is not effective enough.
- you cannot tolerate iron tablets.
- your doctor decides you need iron to build up your iron stores.

### What dose will I have?

You will need to be weighed and have a blood test before being given Ferinject. We will use your weight and haemoglobin blood test result to calculate the dose you need.

To get the correct dose you may need to come in for two intravenous infusions, at least a week apart.

### How is Ferinject given?

You will receive the iron as a drip infusion through a vein in your arm. It may have a volume of up to 250mL (half a pint) and appear as a brown solution.

It is usually given over a period of 15 minutes.

### Are there any reasons why I should not receive Ferinject?

Your doctor will need to discuss with you whether you can have Ferinject if:

- you have a liver problem
- you have an infection
- you have rheumatoid arthritis
- you have asthma, eczema or other allergies

You must not receive Ferinject if:

- you are allergic to ferric carboxymaltose or any of the other ingredients in the infusion
- your anaemia is not due to a shortage of iron
- you have too much iron in your body

### What are the common side effects?

Like all medicines, Ferinject may cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Side effects that you may experience include:

- Headache
- High blood pressure
- Infusion site reactions\*
- Feeling hot (flushing)
- Nausea (feeling sick)
- Dizziness

\* There is a risk that the Ferinject may leak from the infusion site (where it enters your arm) into the surrounding tissue in your skin. This can cause pain, inflammation, and potentially long-lasting brown discolouration on your arm.

If leakage occurs, the infusion will be stopped. Please tell a nurse or doctor if you experience any pain or swelling at the infusion site during the infusion.

Rarely, Ferinject can cause an allergic reaction which may present as:

- rash (e.g., hives)
- difficulty breathing
- swelling of the lips, tongue, throat, or body
- itching
- wheezing
- chest pain

Ferinject can cause low phosphate levels in some patients, which you may notice as:

- Worsening tiredness
- Bone/muscle pain

If you experience any of the above signs or side effects, tell a nurse or doctor immediately. If you experience any side effects at home after the infusion, please contact your GP.