

IRON INFUSIONS

An iron infusion is a procedure where iron is delivered into your body through a needle into a vein (blood vessel). An iron infusion may be considered by your doctor in cases of severe iron deficiency or iron deficiency that has not responded to oral iron supplements. Previously iron infusions had to be administered in a hospital setting, but now with the advent of a new formulation called Ferinject® iron infusions can be safely administered in a GP setting.

What is involved?

Your regular treating doctor must determine that you are suitable for an iron infusion and have a discussion with you about your treatment options and the risks and benefits of proceeding with an infusion. If you are not a regular patient at Myaree Medical Centre they will need to complete a referral form (available from our website) and send it through to us before you can book in for an iron infusion.

You will be given a script for the vials containing the iron formulation which you must fill prior to your scheduled infusion. Please make sure to bring these vials with you on the day.

You will be seen by one of our doctors prior to the infusion who will go through the consent process with you and double check that it is still suitable to proceed. They will then insert a cannula (plastic tubing that is introduced via a needle) into one of the veins in your arms.

After this the nurse will proceed with the infusion. The actual infusion takes around 15 minutes, however you will be required to stay in the surgery for at least 30 minutes after the infusion for monitoring.

You will then usually need to repeat your iron levels around 6 weeks after the infusion. Ordinarily your treating doctor will provide you with a form to get this done.

Costs	
Cost of Ferinject®	Varies depending on pharmacy, usually around \$40-50*
Consultation with doctor on the day of infusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consent process• Determination of suitability to proceed• Insertion of cannula• Management of any complications that arise	Billed at standard consultation rates <u>depending on total time spent with doctor</u> Often a standard consult (\$80 with a \$38.20 Medicare rebate*) in straightforward cases Longer consultation fees may apply in more complex cases (e.g. difficult cannula insertion, complex medical history that needs review, complications)
Infusion costs – in addition to consultation costs	\$100 No Medicare rebate applicable

*with a valid Medicare care