

Intravenous chemotherapy at home with a pump



To treat cancer, you'll receive a treatment at home that's given through the veins using a pump. This sheet:

- Explains how the treatment works
- Tells you what to pay attention to

Why am I being given this sheet?

To treat cancer, your doctor has prescribed chemotherapy to be administered through the veins continuously.

You'll leave the hospital with a pump that will pass the medication through one of your veins.

This sheet explains what you need to do during the treatment

The bag and pump are installed by a nurse. They remain in place for 1 to several days. The nurse will explain what you need to do with the pump and what you need to pay attention to.

You return to the hospital to change the bag during your treatment appointments.

At the end of the treatment, the pump is removed from you in the hospital.

How is the treatment done?

To administer the treatment, a central venous catheter will be installed. This is a small tube that goes into a vein in your arm. See the health sheet [Insertion of a central venous catheter or PICC line](#).

Sometimes another type of catheter is used, which is inserted under the skin in the chest. See the health sheet [Installation of a subcutaneous venous catheter or port-a-cath](#).

The medication is in a bag connected to the catheter by a long tube called a line. The line passes through the pump, which injects the drug at a specific pace.



What should I pay attention to during treatment?

For the pump

- Leave the pump in the carry bag provided. Return the bag with each treatment. ►
- Put the carry bag in bed with you when you sleep. Don't leave it on the bedside table.
- Don't wet the carry bag. Put it in a sealed plastic bag when bathing or showering. Let the line come out through a small opening.
- Every 8 hours, check that the pump is running. To do this, tap any button on the pump to open the screen. You can do this through the window of the carry bag. **"En marche" (on)** should be written in the green strip at the top of the screen.
- To prevent air bubbles in the line, keep the pump at torso height at all times. ►



You can access the controls of the pump through the transparent wall of the bag.



For the catheter

- Keep the dressing on the catheter clean and dry. If you take a bath, don't put your arm or the catheter in water. If you shower, don't aim the water jet at the arm where the catheter is located.



- Make sure the line is securely attached to the catheter. Avoid pulling on the catheter or the line.
- Don't lift heavy objects with the arm where the catheter is inserted. Avoid sudden or repetitive movements. Don't bend the arm where the catheter is too often. Don't play rough sports.

What to do if I have a problem?

In the appendices on pages 3 to 8, you'll find the solutions to apply in certain situations.

Who can I call for help or to ask my questions?

If you have any questions, feel free to discuss them with a member of your care team during your appointments.

When you're at home, you can call your pivot nurse, Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Outside of business hours, if you have a problem with your catheter or pump, you can call the CHUM Patient Health Line.



CHUM PATIENT HEALTH LINE

514 890-8086

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

You're a CHUM patient? You have questions about your health status? A nurse can help you.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Other CHUM health fact sheets are available. Ask your care team which fact sheets can help you.



You can also read them online.

chumontreal.qc.ca/fiches-sante

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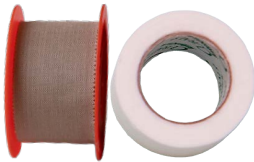
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APPENDIX 1 : THE CATHETER – PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The following tables present:

- **In the blue sections**, the problems you could have.
- **In the white sections**, below, what you need to do.

PROBLEM: THE PRESENCE OF SYMPTOMS	
Feeling like vomiting (nausea) or vomiting Mouth sores or ulcers Diarrhea Any other symptom	Fever
Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., call your pivot nurse. ☎ Evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays, call the CHUM Patient Health Line. ☎ 514 890-8086	At any time of the day, call the CHUM Patient Health Line.

PROBLEM: DETACHED BANDAGE ON THE CENTRAL CATHETER	
	Don't remove the bandage. Add a band-aid to keep the bandage in place. During business hours, call your CLSC to talk with the nurse. You'll make an appointment for the nurse to change the dressing.

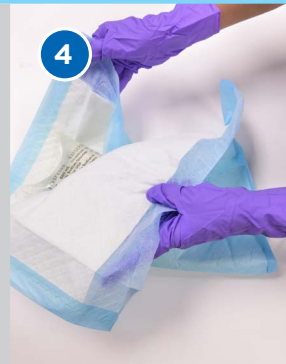
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PROBLEM: THE MEDICATION IS LEAKING OUTSIDE THE LINE



Stop the pump.



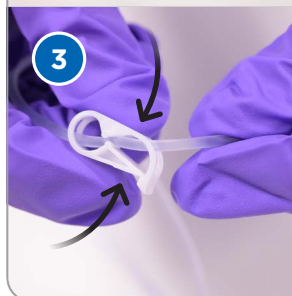
If the leak is coming from the pump or from its line: Wrap the medication bag, line, and pump in the absorbent towel provided. Don't disconnect the catheter line.



Take the spill kit that was given to you. Put on the gloves before touching anything.



If the leak is coming from the catheter: Wrap your arm in the absorbent towel.



Close the clamp on your catheter and the clamp on the line. Find where the leak is coming from.



Remove the gloves and dispose of them in a closed garbage can. Wash your hands with soap and water. Call the hospital (see below).

To call the hospital

Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., call the CHUM's oncology home chemotherapy nurse.

☎ **514 890-8000, ext. 26289**

Evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays, call the CHUM Patient Health Line.

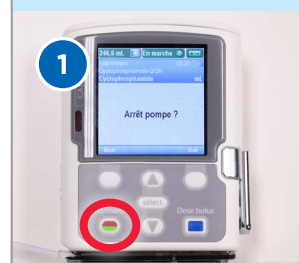
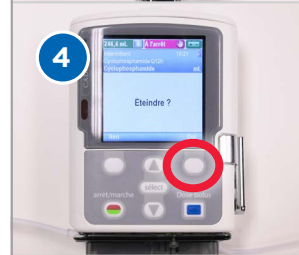
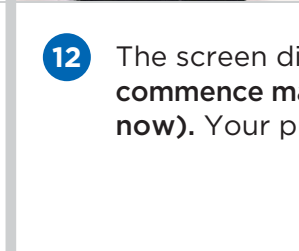
☎ **514 890-8086**

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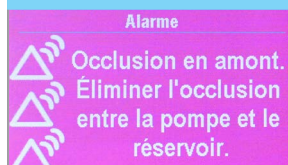
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PROBLEM: EMPTY BATTERY ALARM, THE PUMP WILL STOP

The battery is too weak. The pump will stop soon. The battery needs to be changed.

	1 Tap the arrêt/marche button (Stop/On).		7 Insert a charged battery as indicated on the pump.
	2 The screen displays Arrêt pompe (Stop pump)? Tap the button under the word Oui (Yes).		8 Close the case by turning the knob clockwise.
	3 Press the button on the side of the pump to turn it off.		9 Turn the pump back on by pressing the button on the side.
	4 The screen displays Éteindre (Shut down)? Tap the button under the word Oui (Yes).		10 Activate the pump by tapping the arrêt/marche button (Stop/On).
	5 Open the battery case on top of the pump. To do this, turn the knob counterclockwise.		11 The screen displays Démarrer la pompe (Start the pump)? Tap the button under the word Oui (Yes).
	6 Remove the dead battery and put it in the carry bag.		12 The screen displays La perfusion commence maintenant (Infusion starting now). Your pump is working.

PROBLEM: ALARM FOR CLOGGING UPSTREAM OF THE PUMP



The screen displays: Occlusion en amont (Upstream occlusion). There's a blockage between the medication bag and the pump. The liquid can't flow. The pump is paused.



Tap the key under the word Silence.



Tap the key under the word Aide (Help).



Check that the firing pin on the bag is fully inserted. The firing pin is the pointed end of the line that goes into the medicine bag. If that was the source of the problem, the pump will start up again. If it doesn't, tap the button under the word **Suivant (Next)**.

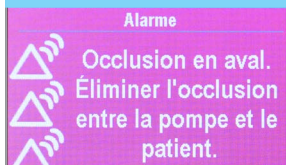


The screen displays **Dépliquer la tubulure (Unfold line)**. This means check that the line isn't bent between the medication bag and the pump. If it is, unfold it. If that was the source of the problem, the pump will start up again. If it doesn't, tap the button under the word **Suivant (Next)**.



Check that the medication bag is securely in place in the carry bag. Move it around and put it back in place. If that was the source of the problem, the pump will start up again. If it doesn't, tap the button under the word **Suivant (Next)**. In this case, you need to call the hospital (see page 8).

PROBLEM: ALARM FOR CLOGGING DOWNSTREAM OF THE PUMP



The screen displays: Occlusion en aval (Downstream occlusion). There's a blockage between the pump and your catheter. The pump is paused.



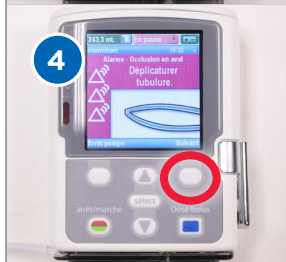
Tap the key under the word **Silence**.



Tap the key under the word **Aide (Help)**.



The screen displays **Ajuster la position actuelle (Adjust current position)**. Check that you're not sitting or lying on the line or that your arm isn't pressing on the line. If that was the source of the problem, the pump will start up again. If it doesn't, tap the button under the word **Suivant (Next)**.



The screen displays **Dépliquer la tubulure (Unfold line)**. This means check that the line isn't bent between the pump and your catheter. If it is, unfold it. If that was the source of the problem, the pump will start up again. If it doesn't, tap the button under the word **Suivant (Next)**.



Check that none of the clamps is closed. If one is closed, open it. If that was the source of the problem, the pump will start up again. If it doesn't, tap the button under the word **Suivant (Next)**.



The screen displays **Retirer capuchons (Remove caps)**. This alarm doesn't apply to you, because your catheter goes directly into your vein. Tap the button under the word **Suivant (Next)**. In this case, you need to call the hospital (see page 8).

ALARM FOR AIR IN THE LINE

The line contains air bubbles, but the bag isn't empty.



Tap the key under the word Silence.

2 Call the hospital (see below).

Call the hospital

Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
call the CHUM's oncology home
chemotherapy nurse.

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