

A Patient's Guide to Venofer®

Appointment Information



We are giving **Venofer®** (DIN 02243716) to help your body make more red blood cells. This will help increase the amount of oxygen in your body and reduce your need for a blood transfusion.

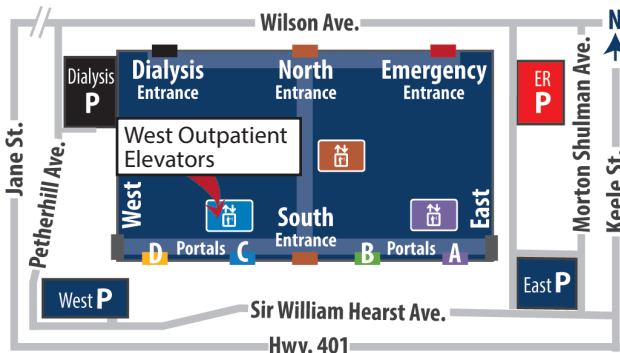
Location: Medical Daycare

Date of Treatment: DD / MM / YYYY

Time of Treatment: _____

Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment to register. We may have to reschedule your appointment if you are late.

To get to Medical Daycare, take the West Outpatient Elevators to level 2.



Humber River Health
1235 Wilson Ave., Toronto ON M3M 0B2



If you get sick before your treatment (such as with a cold, flu, or COVID-19), **please call Medical Daycare at (416) 242-1000 ext. 21300 right away.** We may have to reschedule your appointment.

What is Venofer®?

Venofer® (iron sucrose) is a liquid form of the mineral, iron. It is a brown-coloured solution mixed with saline. We give Venofer® through your vein (intravenous or IV). It works quicker than iron taken by mouth. It also does not irritate your stomach or cause constipation.

Why do I need Venofer®?

We often treat patients with Venofer® if they have low iron levels. Low iron levels may cause symptoms such as difficulty concentrating, irritability, and fatigue. If you continue to have low iron levels, you may develop anemia.

We use Venofer® if:

- Your iron level is so low that iron supplements by mouth will not work
- There is not enough time to build iron stores in your body (for example, before major surgery), or
- Your body is unable to absorb iron.

Why is my iron low?

There are many causes for low iron, including:

- Diet
- Bleeding
- Medicine
- Kidney problems
- Cancer treatment
- Recent surgery
- Digestive problems (such as Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Celiac Disease, gastric bypass)
- Frequent blood donation.

What does the healthcare team need to know before I receive Venofer®?

Before we give you Venofer®, we will ask if you:

- Have had any allergic reactions to intravenous (IV) iron in the past.
- Have any food or drug allergies. If you have a known allergy, we suggest you wear your MedicAlert® bracelet while in hospital.
- Are pregnant.

How do I prepare for the treatment?

On the day of your treatment:

- Eat as you normally would. We recommend that you eat before you come for your treatment.
- Take any medicine or supplements as you normally would.

EXCEPTION: If you are taking iron pills, skip your iron pill on the day of the treatment and for 3 days after. You may restart your iron pill as directed by your healthcare provider.



- Sometimes, unanticipated events can delay your scheduled time. Please bring any medicines or snacks you may need should your appointment get delayed.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you come alone to your appointment. You should be able to go home unescorted after your treatment.

How is the treatment done?

You will be sitting on a chair or a lying on a stretcher during the treatment. We will place a small needle in a vein in your arm or hand. You will be able to read a book during the treatment.

We will infuse Venofer® slowly into the vein over 2 hours. The usual dose we give patients at each treatment is 300 mg.

What are the side effects of Venofer®?

Side effects of Venofer® include:

- A metallic taste in your mouth
- Vomiting (throwing up)
- Dizziness
- Diarrhea (loose, runny stool)
- Chest discomfort
- Hives, rash, itchiness, swelling at the injection site.
- Nausea (feel like throwing up)



During your treatment, tell your nurse, or the person giving you the Venofer®, right away, if you:

- Have trouble breathing, tightness in chest and throat
- Feel light-headed, or dizzy
- Feel hives, rash, itchy
- Have swelling of your throat, face, mouth, tongue, legs or hands.

If you experience any of these serious reactions after leaving the clinic, go to your nearest emergency department right away.

You may also have “flu-like symptoms”, such as:

- Headache
- Muscle aches, or
- Fatigue
- A low-grade fever.

If these symptoms occur, you can treat them with over-the-counter (OTC) pain medicines (such as Tylenol®, Ibuprofen®). For future treatments, you can try to prevent these symptoms from occurring by taking the same OTC medicine one hour before your next Venofer® treatment.

Tell your doctor if the OTC pain medicines do not relieve your flu-like symptoms.



Will I need any laboratory (lab) tests during this treatment?

Your doctor may order lab work during your treatment to determine if the treatment is working, or if you need additional treatment. It often takes 5 to 10 days after a Venofer® infusion to improve hemoglobin levels or feelings of fatigue.

How many treatments will I need?

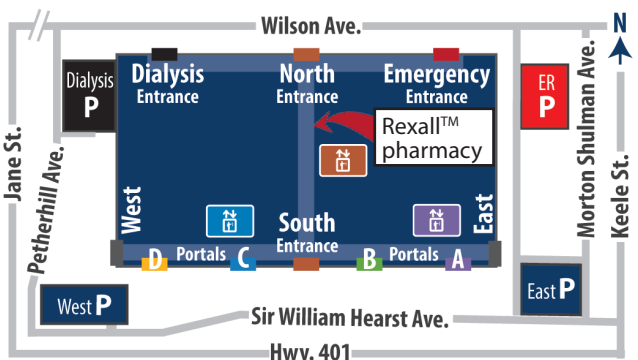
Depending on the lab work results, you may need 1 to 4 Venofer® treatments. We usually schedule each treatment 5 to 14 days apart.

Obtaining Venofer® for your Treatments

Where can I get Venofer®?

Your doctor will write a prescription for Venofer®, which they can fax to any pharmacy for you. Please note that since many pharmacies in the community do not carry intravenous medicines, a good option may be to fill your Venofer® prescription at the **Rexall™** located in Humber River Health.

Rexall™ (Level 1, Humber River Health)
Tel: (416) 248-5810 / Fax: (416) 248-6217
Hours: Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



When do I pick up my prescription?

BEFORE EACH APPOINTMENT, you will need to pick up your Venofer® medicine from the pharmacy.

Venofer® comes as 100 mg vials. To receive your full dose of 300 mg per treatment, **YOU MUST BRING 3 VIALS TO EACH APPOINTMENT.**

- Please pick up your medicine the day before or a few days before your treatment, **especially if your appointment time at the Medical Daycare is before 9:30 a.m.** Store it at room temperature until your appointment.
- **If your appointment time is after 9:30 a.m. AND you are picking your prescription up from the Hospital's Rexall™ location**, you may pick up your medicine on the day of your treatment. Please go to Rexall™ at least 30 minutes before your appointment time to make sure you are on time for your treatment.

Do I need to pay for Venofer®?

The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) does not cover intravenous iron so you must pay for Venofer®. At Rexall™, the cost of Venofer® is up to \$150 for a dose of 300 mg (which includes the dispensing fee).

The Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program also does not cover intravenous iron unless you apply to the Exceptional Access Program (EAP). If you are a Nephrology/Oncology/Hematology patient and have ODB coverage for your medicines, your doctor will usually submit the EAP application for you.

If you have an insurance/benefits company, ask your provider if your plan covers Venofer®. If it does, show your insurance company's drug card to the pharmacy when dropping off your prescription.



If you have any questions about your treatment appointment, please contact:

Medical Daycare
Tel: (416) 242-1000 ext. 21300

For more information about Venofer[®], please contact:

Krystal-Lyn Harder
ONTraC Blood Management Coordinator
Humber River Health
1235 Wilson Ave., Toronto, ON M3M 0B2
Tel: (416) 242-1000 ext. 62023
Email: KHarder@hrh.ca