

IV INFUSION THERAPY

What you should know



5 Do you know what is in the infusion that is being administered? Full disclosure of the exact contents of the drip needs to be made available to the patient.

6 Where does the drip come from? Drips have to be produced in a sterile, compounding laboratory, and need to be created specifically for each individual patient. If the drip is imported, it needs to be done legally and an MCC certification is required.

7 What are the safety measures that should be followed? Sterile procedures need to be adhered to, where only sterile solutions and sterile equipment are used. Needles, IV lines and saline bags all need to be disposed of in a medical disposal bin, which is then taken away by a medical disposal company.

8 Are you being invoiced directly by the medical practice or the doctor where you had your infusion? Since IV infusions are scheduled drugs, only medical companies registered with the HPCSA are allowed to administer IV infusions. Medical doctors are registered with the HPCSA, and hence are only allowed to partner, or share income, with establishments that are also registered with the HPCSA when providing medical services.

For this reason, doctors are not allowed to give commission to salons not registered with the HPCSA who allow them to administer IV infusions on their premises.

As for the answer to the question: you have to be invoiced by the medical practice or doctor that administers the IV infusions.

9 When to avoid IV infusions? When you have any of the following conditions, it is best not to have an IV infusion:

- Pregnant or breastfeeding
- Children under the age of 16
- If you take Warfarin and Plavix
- If you have any vitamin allergies
- If you have chronic renal disease. **A2**

Compliance of medical products, treatments and programmes is a challenge the medical and aesthetic industries often face. With “drip bars” popping up on every street corner, it is nearly impossible for the consumer to know if the procedures followed are above board.

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IV infusions are scheduled drugs, as they consist of a fluid that is pumped directly into the blood stream. It’s for this reason that compliance is essential to ensure the safety of patients. With this mind, the team at Health Renewal has compiled a checklist that every discerning patient should scrutinise before they undergo an IV treatment.

1 Have you had a full medical examination before the prescription of a drip? There is no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to IV infusions and, therefore, it is essential that you have had a medical examination by an ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) certified doctor prescribing your drip. Only once you’ve had your examination will the doctor know what to prescribe to you specifically.

2 Have you received legal documentation regarding your scripting? A doctor has to give you a script following the full medical

examination. There is no such thing as a category drip – sports drips and energy drips are sometimes advertised, but each patient needs to be assessed individually.

3 Is the person administering my drip a qualified medical doctor or nurse? The answer to this question has to be yes – the drips should not be administered by anyone other than a registered nurse or medical doctor – and an ACLS-certified doctor has to be on the premises while you are getting your treatment, in case of an emergency.

4 Is there emergency equipment available in case something goes wrong? The facilities that administer the IV Infusion should have resuscitation equipment, including a defibrillator, that is immediately available in case of an emergency. As the infusion goes straight into the bloodstream, the highest care needs to be taken with regard to safety.