

McLaren Print System Order

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**Chemotherapy takes time
because YOUR SAFETY IS
OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY**

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHEMOTHERAPY

Although each patient's situation is unique, the following guidelines will help you understand the process of receiving chemotherapy. Many different departments and people are involved in preparing your chemotherapy specifically for you. The steps involved in the chemotherapy process may take several hours. We take these steps to make sure your chemotherapy is ordered, prepared and given in the safest way possible. Plan to spend at least half the day, if not the whole day at Karmanos Cancer Institute on treatment days. During your first appointment in the infusion clinic, your nurse will explain approximately how long your infusion will take.

Quick Tips about Chemotherapy

- ▶ **PLAN FOR A LONG DAY THAT MAY INCLUDE:**
 - Lab tests
 - A doctor visit
 - Chemotherapy infusion if your lab tests are okay.
- ▶ **TRANSPORTATION**
 - Have someone drive you to and from your infusion appointment.
- ▶ **FOOD**
 - Eat before coming unless you were told not to eat. Bring snacks, lunch and beverages.
- ▶ **MEDICATION**
 - Take your usual medicines as prescribed.
- ▶ **VISITORS**
 - You may have up to two visitors with you during your chemotherapy infusion. Visitors must be 14 years old or older.

The chart below will help you to understand What to Expect during your chemotherapy appointment	
LAB TESTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood will be drawn to check blood counts at each visit. • Lab tests take about one hour to be processed. • Your chemotherapy cannot be prepared until lab tests are completed and results are reviewed by a registered nurse.
ASSESSMENT/ CLINIC VISIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your vital signs and your weight will be measured at each visit. • Most chemotherapy doses are based on your height and weight. • Based on your assessment and lab results, the doctor/ team or infusion nurse will determine if you meet the criteria to receive your chemotherapy.
ORDER REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your treatment orders will be reviewed by two pharmacists to make sure the drugs, doses and schedule are correct for you.
CHEMOTHERAPY PREPARATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your chemotherapy dose is prepared just for you by specially trained technicians and pharmacists – there is no “one size fits all” dose. • Preparing chemotherapy can take up to an hour. Some drugs are frozen and have to be thawed, some are powders that have to be mixed with fluid. • Since chemotherapy is “made to order,” it cannot be prepared ahead of time. Although this may mean a longer wait time, the careful attention given to preparing each dose makes sure it is safe for you.
PHARMACIST DOSE CHECK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once your chemotherapy is prepared, a second pharmacist checks it to make sure the drug and dose match the doctor's orders. • Your chemotherapy is then delivered to the infusion area.
CHEMOTHERAPY INFUSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every chemotherapy drug is checked by two nurses before it is given to you. • Your nurse will monitor your response to chemotherapy. • During your infusion, if you feel different in any way, tell your nurse right away.
MISSED APPOINTMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to follow your appointment schedule to achieve the best possible outcome. • To reschedule your appointments, please contact your health-care team as instructed or call 1-800-KARMANCIS (1-800-527-6286).

Spec Info: