

You are receiving this handout because you have had an infusion related reaction. An infusion related reaction is an unpredictable reaction caused by your cancer treatment. You might also hear your health care team refer to this as a hypersensitivity reaction, or an allergic reaction.

Each reaction may be different and can be mild or severe (see table on the other side of this page).

Decisions about your future treatments will depend on the severity of your reaction, you can talk to your doctor about what the next steps will look like.

Delayed Reaction

There is a risk the reaction may happen again when you return home, this is called a delayed reaction. Delayed reactions are rare. If you have a delayed reaction, it is important that you get medical help right away.

If possible, have someone stay with you for 24 hours after any infusion related reaction.

You may be instructed to take diphenhydramine (e.g. BENADRYL®) at home after you leave the clinic to prevent a delayed reaction. You can buy BENADRYL® at a pharmacy without a prescription. Your nurse or doctor will tell you to how to take BENADRYL® at home if needed.

Instructions at home:

See the other side of this page for what to do at home if symptoms return.

What to do at home if symptoms return:

GET MEDICAL HELP (CALL 9-1-1) IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:	CALL THE PROVINCIAL NURSE LINE 1-833-818-ONCO (6626) if you have any of the following:
Severe Reaction Symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trouble breathing • Chest pressure, or discomfort • Throat tightness • Swelling of lips, tongue, throat, or face 	Mild Reaction Symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hives (red raised itchy skin bumps) • Flushing (feeling warm and skin turning red) • Itching • Fever (temperature over 38° C) and/or chills <p>*If unable to reach a nurse within 30 minutes and your symptoms are worsening, go to your local emergency department*</p> <p>And call if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stomach pain • Nausea (upset stomach) and/or vomiting (throwing up) • Diarrhea (loose to watery bowel movements) • Lower or mid back pain • Dizziness or lightheadedness • Headache

What if I have symptoms, but they are not on the list? Everybody experiences reactions differently and if you feel unwell in any way, or are unsure if your reaction is happening again, speak to a BC Cancer nurse.

Talk to Your Cancer Care Team

Talk to your cancer care team about your reaction at your next appointment. They may decide if you need medications before treatment to prevent a reaction, or they may switch you to another systemic therapy treatment.

Emotional Support

Your need for emotional support can change while you go through cancer treatment. Ask your cancer care team about help to manage your concerns.