



## What does this medication do?

- This medication is an iron supplement used to treat anemia.
- Anemia is when your body does not have enough red blood cells to carry oxygen around. It can sometimes happen when your body does not have enough iron, but there are other causes of anemia too. When you have anemia, you can feel tired, cold, short of breath, or have difficulty in concentrating.
- This medication is given intravenously (IV) when iron tablets taken by mouth are either not tolerated or not providing the body with enough iron.

## How should I take this medication?

- This medication is typically given in a hospital or health care facility.
- An intravenous (IV) catheter is inserted into a vein and the medication is given through this intravenous. The time it takes to infuse will depend on your dose and the type of iron you are getting. A nurse will give this to you and observe you regularly while the dose is given and for 30 to 60 minutes after the dose is finished.
- Prior to your infusion, you may eat a small meal and take all of your regular medications as usual. It is also important to be well hydrated as this makes it easier to find a vein for the infusion.
- If you are a hemodialysis patient, you may be given a dose with dialysis session for a few weeks and then every 2 to 4 weeks. Your pharmacist or nurse will tell you how often you must receive an iron dose. The medication will be given through the dialysis machine during your dialysis sessions.
- If you are not a hemodialysis patient, you may only need 1 to 3 (weekly) doses to start. Some people, depending on their situation, may then require a dose every 1 to 3 months after that.
- If you were on oral iron pills before being prescribed IV iron, discuss with your health care team whether or not you need to continue them.

## Are there any side effects?

- The most serious reactions are rare. These will usually occur within the first 15 minutes of the dose, but can occur up to an hour after receiving the dose. **You must report to the nurse immediately** if you feel short of breath, swelling of the face, tongue or throat, sudden dizziness, chest, stomach or back pain, itchiness or rash, wheezing (noisy breathing), flushing, stomach upset or vomiting.
- If you experience the symptoms mentioned above, the nurse will stop the infusion and closely monitor your symptoms for worsening. You may be given additional medications to help with your symptoms. If your symptoms resolve, your infusion may be restarted at a slower rate to prevent the reaction.
- Other side effects are mild and can occur anywhere from 4 to 48 hours after regular dose. These may include headache, muscle and joint pains, fever, flu-like symptoms, backache, dizziness, stomach upset or vomiting. These reactions usually disappear after 2 to 4 days and can be treated with acetaminophen.

## Other information:

- Your doctor/health care team will monitor your response to IV iron using blood tests, so it is important that you do all the blood tests ordered at the times you are asked to.
- **It is important to wait at least 4 weeks after receiving ferric derisomaltose (Monoferric®) before repeating your iron levels, otherwise your levels may not be accurate.**

