

*In partnership with Primary Children's Hospital*

*Let's Talk About...*

# Infusion Therapy in the Rapid Treatment Unit (RTU)





Thank you for the opportunity to partner with you in the healing of your child through infusion therapy in the Rapid Treatment Unit (RTU). Infusion therapy is very important and our team strives to give your child the best care possible. At Primary Children's Hospital, our primary goal is to keep "The Child First and Always," and our hope is that you will experience this first-hand through your child's infusions.

In this booklet, we will explain what to do before and after arriving at the hospital. We will also show you the location of the RTU, introduce you to your child's care team, and explain the infusion process.

## What should I do before coming to the hospital?

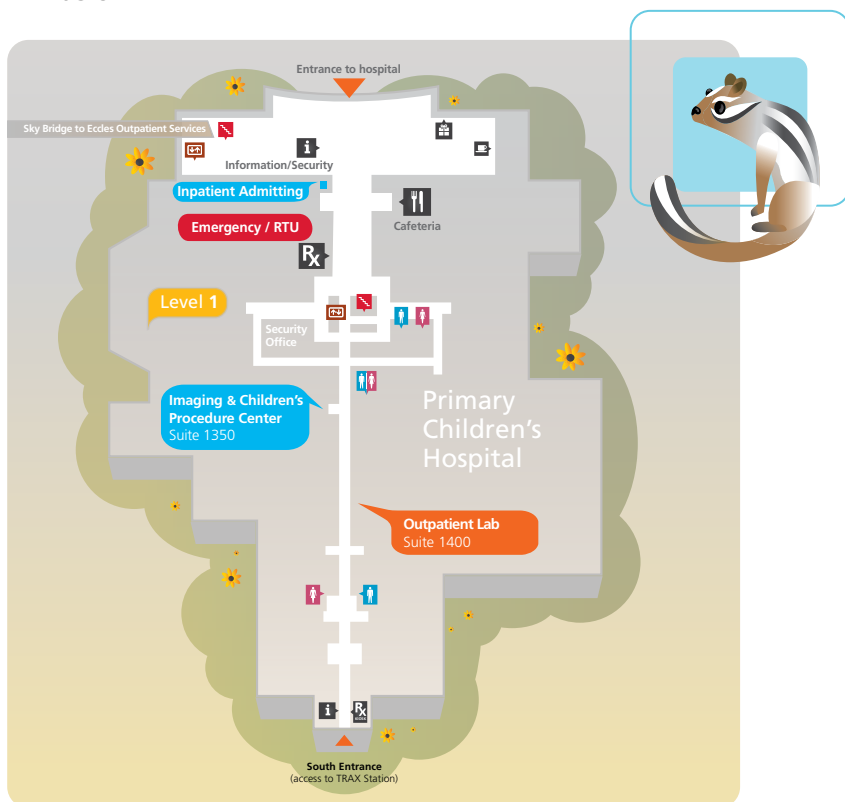
- **Speak with your insurance company about prior authorization** before your child's infusion. Authorizations are submitted by the doctor's office that ordered the infusion.
- **Bring your child's insurance card and your identification** to the appointment.
- **Call and confirm** your appointment 2 hours before your child's infusion with the RTU at 801-662-1300.
  - If your child was ill in the last 7 days, please also call your child's physician before confirming with the RTU.
- **Be on time** to your child's scheduled appointment.
  - If you arrive more than **30 minutes late**, your appointment **will be canceled**. You will have to reschedule the infusion for another time.
  - If you know in advance that you will be late, please call the RTU at 801-662-1300.



## What should I do when we arrive at the hospital?

- Drive in through the north east entrance from Mario Capecchi Drive. This entrance is just north of the walking sky bridge.
- Park in the hospital's north parking terrace.
- **Check in at Inpatient Admitting** on Level 1 of the hospital, please see the map for directions.
  - A parent must be present to check your child in.
  - After your child's first infusion visit, parents can call inpatient admitting ahead of time and give permission for another guardian to bring your child to their infusion appointment.
- **Check in at the RTU** on Level 1 of the hospital after checking in with inpatient admitting. Please see map for directions.

We will place a patient identification (ID) band on your child during check in. **It is required that your child wear the ID band throughout their infusion.**



## What happens after my child is admitted?

You and your child will be guided to the RTU infusion room and welcomed by your child's healthcare team.

## Who is on my child's healthcare team?

### Pediatric Care Technician

Your child's pediatric care technician will:

- Measure and record your child's height and weight without shoes, jackets, or coat.
- Take and record your child's temperature, blood pressure, heart rate, and respiratory rate. You will hear this called "taking your child's vital signs."



### Pediatric RTU Nurse

Your child's nurse will:

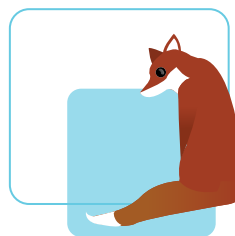
- Welcome and orient you and your child to the RTU.
- Explain the infusion process in a kid-friendly way.
- Let the doctor know that your child has arrived for their infusion.
- Give pre-medicine 30 to 60 minutes before the start of the infusion to lower the risk of any infusion reactions.
- Place an IV, or access your child's port or central line if they have one, and collect blood for any ordered lab work.
- Order your child's infusion medicine from the pharmacy.
- Monitor your child throughout their infusion.

### IV Team

If your child's IV start is difficult, we have an IV team that is available to help. An IV team is a group of nurses and technicians that are experts in placing IVs. The IV team and your child's nurse will offer different techniques to ease the pain of the IV placement. Depending on other needs in the hospital, wait time for the IV team may take up to one hour.

## Child life specialists

If your child is afraid of having an IV or being in the hospital, a child life specialist may be called. They can help explain what the nurse or technician is doing and help your child relax. A child life specialist can also distract your child while the IV is being placed or during their infusion.



They try to help a child feel secure during their visit. And help healing through play, games, videos, crafts, etc. Please let us know how they can help your child have FUN during their infusion!

Child life specialists may not be available at night or on the weekends.

## Pharmacists

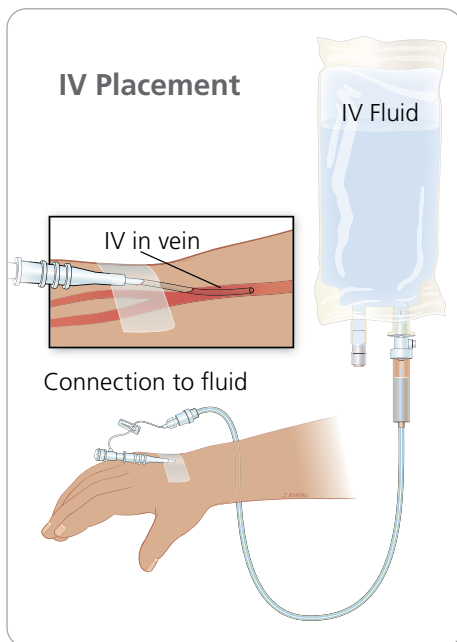
A pharmacist is available to explain and answer any questions you may have about your child's infusion medicine.

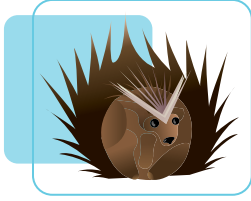
## How will my child receive their infusion?

An IV [eye-vee] or intravenous [in-trah-VEE nuss] catheter is used to give your child's infusion medicines. It is a tiny flexible tube inserted into a vein. An IV is often the best way to give medicine and fluid.

### How will my child receive an IV?

Depending upon your child's age, your child may receive the IV in a hand, arm, foot, or scalp vein. The person who places the IV will decide the best location for your child. You might hear the nurse call this "placing the IV."





It is very helpful if **your child drinks at least 6 ounces of fluid** right before their infusion appointment. This will help the vein be ready for the IV.

Your child will be given a warm pack to put on the IV site to help the nurse find the best vein. The nurse will then put a stretchy band around your child's arm or foot. You might hear the nurse call this stretchy band a tourniquet [TURN-ih-ket]. The nurse will use a needle to put the IV into the vein, but once it is in place, only a flexible plastic tube stays in the vein. The nurse will put a clear dressing or tape over the place where the IV tube enters the vein. The nurse may also use a type of brace to help your child hold the IV in place during the infusion.

## What happens during an infusion?

- Your child will be monitored by their nurse and pediatric care technician for any infusion reactions.
- The team will take your child's vital signs (temperature, blood pressure etc.).
- The nurse will monitor the IV site during the infusion.
- Once the infusion is complete, your child will be monitored for an additional 30 minutes to make sure they don't have a reaction to the infusion medication.
- This 30 minute waiting period is a great time to schedule your next appointment with the RTU charge nurse.
- Your child's IV will be removed before you leave.





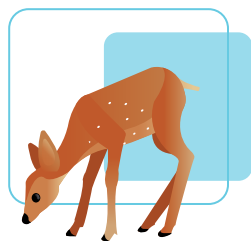
## What else do I need to know?

Our goal is to have your child's medicine prepared as soon as possible. When you call to confirm your appointment, the medication will be ordered at that time.

- If you are unable to call before your appointment, your child's medicine may take up to **1 hour to prepare after you check in.**
- If your child has or had a fever recently, we will contact your doctor before we proceed with your child's infusion.
- For your child's future infusion appointments, please call to schedule 7 to 10 days in advance. This helps ensure the infusion medication gets delivered to Primary Children's Hospital in time.
- A parent/guardian must be at your child's bedside at all times.
- Please let your child's nurse know if you or your child have any concerns. The nurse will talk to the doctor about your concerns.

## Are meals provided in the RTU for my child?

Yes. The RTU supplies drinks and snacks for your child throughout their infusion. Primary Children's Hospital offers a room service benefit to our infusion patients. Ask your child's RTU nurse for more information.



- **Only patients can order food from the room service menu.** Parents, siblings, and friends will need to provide their own meals, drinks, or snacks.
  - Patients can order from the room service menu every 3 hours.
- The cafeteria is located across from the outpatient pharmacy on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

## Can my child have visitors?

Yes. Your child is allowed 2 visitors.

- **No sick visitors are allowed in the infusion area.** A sick visitor is anyone with fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- One of the visitors must be a parent/guardian.
- Only adults are permitted in the infusion area, no siblings are allowed.

## When can I take my child home?

If your child has no reaction to the medicine 30 minutes after their infusion they are ready to go home.



- The nurse will do a final check of your child's vital signs and the IV will be removed at the end of the 30 minute waiting period.
- Your nurse will review the signs and symptoms of infusion reactions and other important instructions that you need to know when you are home with your child.
- The day after your child's first infusion, a nurse from the RTU will provide a courtesy call to check in and see how your child is feeling.

## What are my insurance responsibilities?

It is up to you to check with your insurance company that all prior authorizations are made for your child's medicine. This needs to be done regularly.



### Who can I call if I have more questions?

Please call 801-662-1300 and ask to speak to the charge nurse or infusion nurse.



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