

# Ferinject® patient information

**You have been given this leaflet because you have low levels of iron in your body (iron deficiency and/or anaemia) and your doctor believes that Ferinject® is an appropriate treatment for you.**

Every cell in your body needs iron to work properly. It's needed in your red blood cells and muscles.

The aim of Ferinject® is to boost your body's iron stores. Having treatment can significantly improve your ability to get around, think and feel better.

## About Ferinject®

**Ferinject® is an intravenous iron replacement therapy.**

The iron in Ferinject® is in the form of tiny particles with a special coating designed to protect the iron until it gets to where it needs to go, then it's released slowly into your system.

Ferinject® is not a blood product or transfusion.

## Your Ferinject® treatment

**You will be treated with Ferinject® by your doctor or nurse in one of two ways:**

- by injection, directly into a vein in your arm, or
- by infusion into a vein in your arm through a drip.

Your doctor or nurse will decide on the best way to give you your treatment, and explain how they're going to do it before they begin.

Your treatment time will be approximately 15 minutes, after which you'll wait for 30 minutes before you head home.

## What happens after treatment?

About four to six weeks after your first Ferinject® treatment your doctor will arrange a blood test to recheck your iron levels. Based on the results, they will decide if you need any more Ferinject®.

## Are there side effects?

**As with all medicines, Ferinject® can sometimes cause side effects. The most common side effect is a headache.**

There is a low risk with all iron treatments given directly into your vein that you could experience a reaction known as an anaphylactoid reaction.

This can cause symptoms such as swelling of the face, mouth and tongue as well as potentially cause difficulty with breathing.

There is a small (uncommon) risk of long-lasting brown discolouration of the skin which can occur due to leakage of Ferinject® at the injection site.

Your doctor or nurse will discuss possible side effects with you and will also monitor you while your treatment is being given, and afterwards for half an hour.

**Please tell your health professional if you feel unwell or think you may be experiencing any side effects while you are being treated with Ferinject®.**

[www.ferinject.co.nz](http://www.ferinject.co.nz)



FERINJECT® (ferric carboxymaltose) Intravenous iron for injection and infusion (50mg/ml). Consult with your Doctor if FERINJECT® is right for you. FERINJECT® is a fully funded prescription medicine – special authority criteria. Normal Doctors fees and prescription charge apply. FERINJECT® is approved for the treatment of iron deficiency when oral iron preparations are ineffective or cannot be used. Do not take FERINJECT® if you have a known allergy to any ingredient in this product. Tell your Doctor if you are taking other medicines. Do not use FERINJECT® if you have anaemia that is not caused by iron deficiency, if you have iron overload. Common side effects include headache, dizziness, nausea, abdominal pain, constipation, diarrhoea, rash and injection site reactions. If you have side effects please see your Doctor. Use strictly as directed. More information on FERINJECT® is available at [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz) or Aspen Pharmacare. FERINJECT® is a registered trademark of Vifor Pharma Group used under licence. Aspen Pharmacare, C/O Pharmacy Retailing (NZ) Ltd. [www.aspenpharma.co.nz](http://www.aspenpharma.co.nz). TAPS PP1330-17SP.