Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Treatment at the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center Infusion Suite

This information explains what to expect during your treatment at the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center infusion suite. The Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center is sometimes called the Breast and Imaging Center (BAIC).

About the infusion suite

The infusion suite (also called the chemo suite) is located in the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center. The address is:

Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center
3rd Floor
300 East 66th Street (at Second Ave.)
New York, NY 10065

You'll get your treatment in a private room. Each room has:

- A reclining chair where you will sit during your treatment.
- Extra chairs for your guests.
- A television.
- Wireless Internet (Wi-Fi).

Warm blankets and a pillow are available to make you more comfortable.

Length of treatment visit

Your treatment visit may last several hours.

- You may have your blood drawn to be sure that your blood counts are in a safe range for treatment.
- You may have an appointment with your doctor or nurse practitioner before your treatment.
- The pharmacy staff will get your treatment ready for you. Some medicines and chemotherapy take longer to get ready than others, so waiting times are different for everyone.
- Specially trained pharmacists and nurses will check your chemotherapy to make sure it's the right one that your healthcare provider ordered for you.

Treatment times are also different for everyone. Some treatments are short, and others can take several hours. If your treatment is longer or you're getting treatments for a clinical trial, you may need to have your appointment in the morning to make sure there's enough time to finish your treatment.

Getting ready for your treatment

Follow the steps below to get ready for your treatment before coming in for your appointment.

- Arrive on time for your appointment.
- Dress comfortably.
- Eat a light meal before you come unless your healthcare provider gives you other instructions.
- Stay hydrated by drinking water or other drinks without caffeine.
- Pack some snacks or a light lunch to bring with you. There's a refrigerator available to store cold food items.
- If you're scalp cooling (a treatment that can prevent hair loss caused by some chemotherapy medicines), make sure you've watched the scalp cooling video and practiced putting on the cap before you come for your chemotherapy appointment.

Developmental treatment unit (DTU)

This is the unit that cares for people in clinical trials. You may be in this unit if you're part of a clinical trial.

If you're in a clinical trial in the DTU, your visit times may be very specific, and you may need to fast. You may also have blood tests or EKGs (electrocardiogram tests that measure

the electrical activity in your heart) during your treatment. Your healthcare provider will go over all these details with you before you come in for treatment.

When you arrive at the infusion suite

Before your infusion:

- If your healthcare provider told you that you need a fingerstick blood test (when your finger is pricked to get a small blood sample), go to the lab on the 1st floor before going to the 3rd floor for treatment.
- You may have an appointment with your healthcare provider before your treatment. Check the schedule that's given to you, or in your patient portal (MSK MyChart) to see the time of your appointment in the infusion suite.
    - There will be time between your appointment with your healthcare provider and your appointment in the infusion suite. This time is used to check your orders and prepare your medicine. You may wait in the infusion suite (to avoid crowding in the waiting room) during this time.
- Check in at the reception desk in the lobby of the 3rd floor. You must check in for every appointment, whether you're seeing your healthcare provider or getting treatment. You should check in no more than 15 minutes

before your appointment time. You'll be taken in for treatment based on your appointment time, not the time you arrived.

- While you wait for your appointment to begin is a good time to leave new prescriptions or request refills at the outpatient pharmacy, located next to the infusion suite. They'll be ready when your treatment is finished.
- If you leave the waiting room, give your cell phone number to the Medical Coordinator. They'll call you when your treatment is ready.

Getting your treatment

The Medical Coordinator will bring you to your private room in the infusion suite, and let you know when your medicines and chemotherapy are ready.

- You'll be asked to state and spell your name and birth date many times. This is for your safety. People with the same or similar names may be having treatment on the same day you are.
- Specially trained nurses will take care of you during your treatment. To shorten your wait time, you may not be treated by the same nurse at each visit. But all the nurses will know about your treatment.
- Before your treatment, your nurse will ask about your

symptoms and discuss your treatment for that day. This is a good time to ask questions you might have.

- To start your treatment, your nurse will put an intravenous (IV) line (a needle that goes into your vein to give you medicine) in your arm. If you have an implanted port, such as a MediPort®, your nurse will access it with a special needle.

After your treatment

Before you leave the treatment area:

- Your nurse will go over any instructions related to your treatment. Ask your nurse any questions you have.
- If you're scalp cooling, you may need to finish your cooling session in another area outside the infusion suite. This frees up space for other people getting treatment. Your care team will tell you if you need to do this. It depends on your treatment plan and which MSK location you're at. Your care team will answer any questions about cooling times and what to expect at your location.

  If you use a frozen cooling cap, plan to finish your cooling session at home after your treatment. Examples of frozen cooling caps are the Penguin™ cap and the Chemo Cold Cap™.

- Pick up your prescriptions or refills at our outpatient pharmacy, located next to the infusion suite.

At home

- A nurse will call you 1 to 3 days after your first treatment to see how you're feeling.
- If you have questions that can't wait or any unexpected symptoms, call your healthcare provider's office.

Other services at the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center

Many support services are available to you at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) and the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center. Read *Breast and Imaging Center (BAIC) Support Services* (www.mskcc.org/pe/baic_support) and *MSK Support Services* (www.mskcc.org/pe/support) to learn more about support services.

Some examples of services available at the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center are:

- Clinical dietitian-nutritionists can talk with you about your diet during chemotherapy. Talk with your nurse or Medical Coordinator if you'd like to make an appointment with a clinical dietitian nutritionist at the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center.

- Social workers are available to meet with you privately at the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center. You can also join a support group or meet privately with a psychiatrist if needed.
- Online support groups are also available. You can learn more about these and view a schedule at www.msk.org/vp.
- Integrative Medicine and Wellness Service also offers appointments for acupuncture, mind and body therapies, and fitness sessions. You can learn more about their services at www.msk.org/integrativemedicine. To make an appointment, call 646-449-1010.
- A chaplain (spiritual counselor) is available to meet with you privately during your visit or to talk by phone.
- The outpatient pharmacy, located next to the infusion suite on the 3rd floor.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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