

# LEASIDE VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC

## Venofer®

### What you need to know

**Venofer®** is a medicine we give intravenously (IV, through the vein) to raise the iron level in your body. A doctor may prescribe Venofer® if you have iron deficiency anemia and you are not doing well with your oral iron supplement.

### Why is iron important?

Your body needs iron to make red blood cells. If you have very low iron levels, you may develop a low red blood cell count. This is called iron deficiency anemia.

Low iron levels may make you feel dizzy, tired, look pale, have headaches, feel very cold in your hands and legs, and you may have difficulty concentrating. Iron deficiency anemia has also been associated with a higher incidence of psychiatric disorders including anxiety and depression .

### What causes low iron levels?

Your iron may be low because of:

- A diet low in foods that contain iron, like fish, meat, and dark greens
- Frequent blood donation
- Bowel Problems
- Pregnancy
- Excessive Bleeding (i.e Menstrual or bowel)

### What are the side effects of Venofer?

It is rare to have serious side effects from Venofer®.

**MINOR side effects** include:

- Nausea/vomiting (throwing up)/Constipation
- Diarrhea/abdominal belly pain
- Swelling at the injection site
- Facial flushing
- Rash, itchiness, or hives
- Back pain

- Risk of extravasation which can cause darkening of local skin. Staining may occur due to leakage of iron in the tissues around the needle. This is not common but the stain can be long lasting or permanent.

**FLU-LIKE symptoms** include:

- Headache
- Muscle aches/joint
- Sore throat pain
- Fatigue
- A low-grade fever.

If you have flu-like symptoms, you can treat them with over-the-counter (OTC) medicines like Tylenol®. We recommend you do NOT use ibuprofen or NSAIDS

**A SERIOUS side effect is an allergic reaction,**

- Trouble breathing
- Feeling light-headed or dizzy
- Severe nausea, vomiting, or belly pain
- Chest pain
- Swelling of your throat, face, mouth, tongue, legs, or hands
- Low blood pressure.

## **How many treatments of Venofer® will I need?**

Venofer® is typically given as a one or multiple time dose in the clinic spread out at least 1 week apart. If you need more treatments, your doctor will discuss this with you.

## **Where do I get Venofer®?**

Your doctor will give you a prescription for Venofer®. Many pharmacies do not carry intravenous medicines so you will need to call around to your local pharmacies to confirm that they have it or can order it. It may take up to 1 week to receive an order of Venofer. For your convenience, the Leaside Village Shoppers Drug Mart below us can order Venofer® - please provide at least 1 week to receive the order.

If you decide to pick up your prescription on the day of your treatment, please **pick it up at least 30 minutes before your appointment time**. Most prescriptions are sent to the Shoppers Drug Mart below the clinic at 25 industrial Street. Do not refrigerate the sample.

## **Do I need to pay for Venofer®?**

**The cost of Venofer® is between \$100 to \$200, depending on the dosage you need.**

In most cases, you must pay for Venofer®.

If you have an insurance/benefits company, ask your provider if your plan covers **Venofer (DIN 02243716)**. If it does, show your insurance company's drug card to the pharmacy when dropping off your prescription.

## **How do I prepare for the treatment?**

There are no special instructions to prepare for your treatment. Please ensure to eat on the day of treatment as normal. On the day of your appointment, you may eat and drink as you normally would, but avoid smoking or alcohol.

## **Cost for the treatment?**

Infusion of IV Iron is not covered by OHIP but may be reimbursed by private insurance and/or used as a tax deduction. The cost for the infusion (exclusive of medication cost) is **\$150 - \$200 per infusion** due on check in via credit or debit card only.

## **What can I expect during my clinic appointment?**

**Please bring the Venoer® with you to the clinic.**

Expect to be at the clinic for about 3 hours. We will give you Venofer® by infusion into your vein over 90 minutes. We will watch you during the treatment and for at least 30 minutes after the treatment for any reactions. In the weeks after your treatment, your doctor may order bloodwork to see if the medicine is working.

**Tell your nurse right away if you start to feel unwell or are experiencing any local, IV site or systemic reactions while in the clinic. The nurse may need to stop the infusion.**

**After the infusion, give yourself time to see how the medicine affects you. Avoid driving or operating a machine until you feel you are able and alert**

## **Consent**

**By signing the patient understands the information and accepts the inherent risks to IV iron treatment.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Patient Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Patient Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

