



Information for Patients

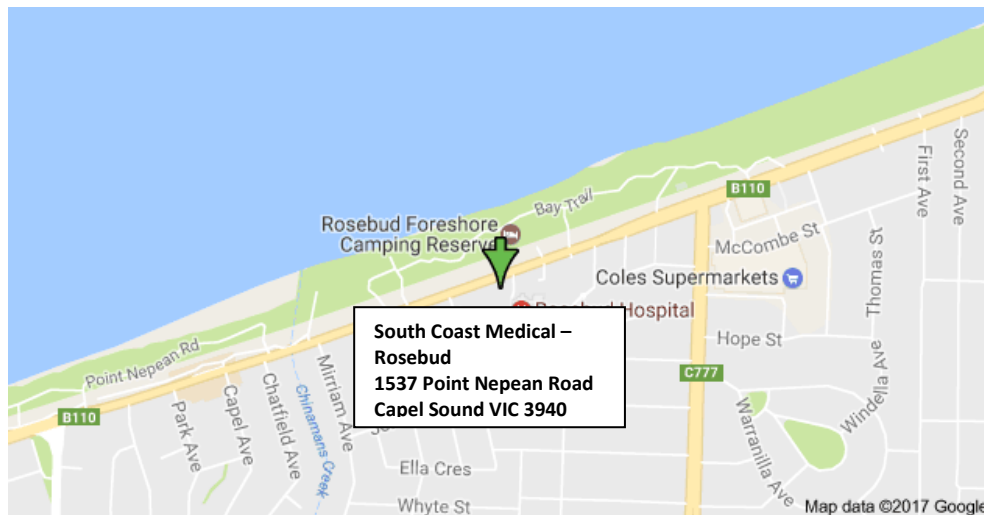
Iron Infusions

Location and Contact

South Coast Medical – Rosebud
1537 Point Nepean Road
Capel Sound 3940
Phone: 03 5986 2155
Fax: 03 5982 2155
www.scmc.com.au

Opening Hours for Iron Infusions

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm



Book Your Intravenous (IV) Iron Infusion

South Coast Medical – Rosebud
1537 Point Nepean Road
Capel Sound VIC 3940
T: 03 5986 2155

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is iron important?

Our bodies need iron. Iron is used to make haemoglobin – the part of our red blood cells that carries oxygen around our body. It is also important for muscle strength, energy and good mental function. If your iron levels are low this may make you feel tired and not able to do normal daily activities. As the amount of iron in the body falls even lower, the haemoglobin levels drop below normal. This is known as iron deficiency anaemia.

Why might I need IV Iron?

The most common way to treat iron deficiency is to take iron by mouth as a tablet or liquid. This works well for most people and is usually tried first. Some people may need iron to be given straight into the body through a vein. This is called and Intravenous (IV) iron infusion. The iron is given through a needle and dripped ('infused') into your vein. Sometimes 2 iron infusions (given at least 1 week apart) are needed to fully top up iron stores. The infusion is made up of iron, not blood.

IV iron might be needed if you:

- Are not able to take iron tablets / liquid
- Are not responding to iron tablets / liquid or not absorbing them
- Need to get your iron levels up quickly E.g. Before major surgery, late in pregnancy or to avoid blood transfusion)
- If you have chronic kidney disease or chronic heart failure

What happens during your appointment?

Infusion therapy involves the administration of a medication through a needle or cannula. The cannula is usually inserted into a vein in your hand or arm and is then connected to a sterile bag that contains the fluid or medication to be infused.

During your infusion our nurses will measure and record your vital signs, such as blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation.

What to bring/What should I wear?

It is recommended that you wear comfortable loose-fitting clothes. Your sleeve will need to be pushed well above the elbow. This will allow our staff to more easily insert the cannula and to monitor your vital signs. As some IV fluids may make you feel cool, it is also suggested that you bring a jacket or cover to keep warm. We encourage you to relax whilst you are having your infusion, please bring reading material or something to occupy your time.

For your convenience during your treatment, we provide complimentary Wi-Fi via Facebook.

www.facebook.com/southcoastmedical

Referral

A referral and a standard prescription from a General Practitioner or a Specialist are required to have an infusion.

Your doctor will have access to either a paper referral form or can locate one on our website.

www.scmc.com.au

Procedure Preparation

It is important that you are well hydrated prior to your procedure. If you are able, please drink water before your treatment. If you suffer from a heart or kidney condition, please discuss the appropriate amount of hydration with your doctor.

How long will the infusion take?

Most infusions take less than 30 minutes. For patients having an iron infusion, please allow one hour as there is a 30 minute observation period post infusion.

Can I have an Iron Infusion whilst I'm pregnant?

Ferinject® can be given after the 1st trimester. Please consult your doctor on your suitability for an iron infusion.

Can children have iron infusions?

The minimum age for an iron infusion is 14 years unless discussed with your paediatrician.

Can I bring a friend with me?

Due to the size of the suite, we prefer you to come into the suite alone. If you prefer to have someone with you during the infusion, please speak to your doctor or nurse. Your support person is more than welcome to wait in our comfortable waiting room.

Can I get a medical / attendance certificate?

Yes – please let our nurse know if this is required.

Are there any side effects with IV iron?

Generally, when side effects do occur, they are mild and settle down on their own. The most common side effects are temporary and include:

>Headache, feeling sick or vomiting, muscle or joint pain

>Changes in taste (e.g., metallic)

>Changes to blood pressure or pulse

Skin staining (brown discoloration) may occur due to leakage of iron into the tissues around the needle (drip) site. **This is not common but the stain can be long lasting or permanent.** Inform the doctor or nurse straight away of any discomfort, burning, redness or swelling at the needle (drip) site.

Although very uncommon, some people may have a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis ≤ 1:1,000). In rare cases this can be life threatening. You will be closely monitored while IV iron is given, and for 30 minutes after. Sometimes side effects (e.g., headache, muscle or joint pain) can start 1 to 2 days later. Mostly they will settle down by themselves over the next couple of days. If they worry you or interfere with your daily activities contact South Coast Medical for advice.

If you have chest pain, trouble breathing, dizziness or neck / mouth swelling, please seek urgent medical attention / call an ambulance (000).

How much does an iron infusion cost?

The Iron Infusion is billed an Item 36 and is rebate claimable from Medicare.

Medical consumables used as part of your treatment attract a separate fee of \$120.00. This out of pocket expense is not claimable from your private health fund or Medicare.

Payment is required at the time of the treatment. We accept cash, Visa, MasterCard and EFTPOS.

The costs of any medications are not included in the service fee.

Cost of Ferinject®

	<u>Pension/Concession Card Holder</u>	<u>Private</u>
500mg/10ml (2 vials) (Recommended prices 2025)	\$7.00	\$31.50

Where can I park?

Free parking is available behind the clinic.