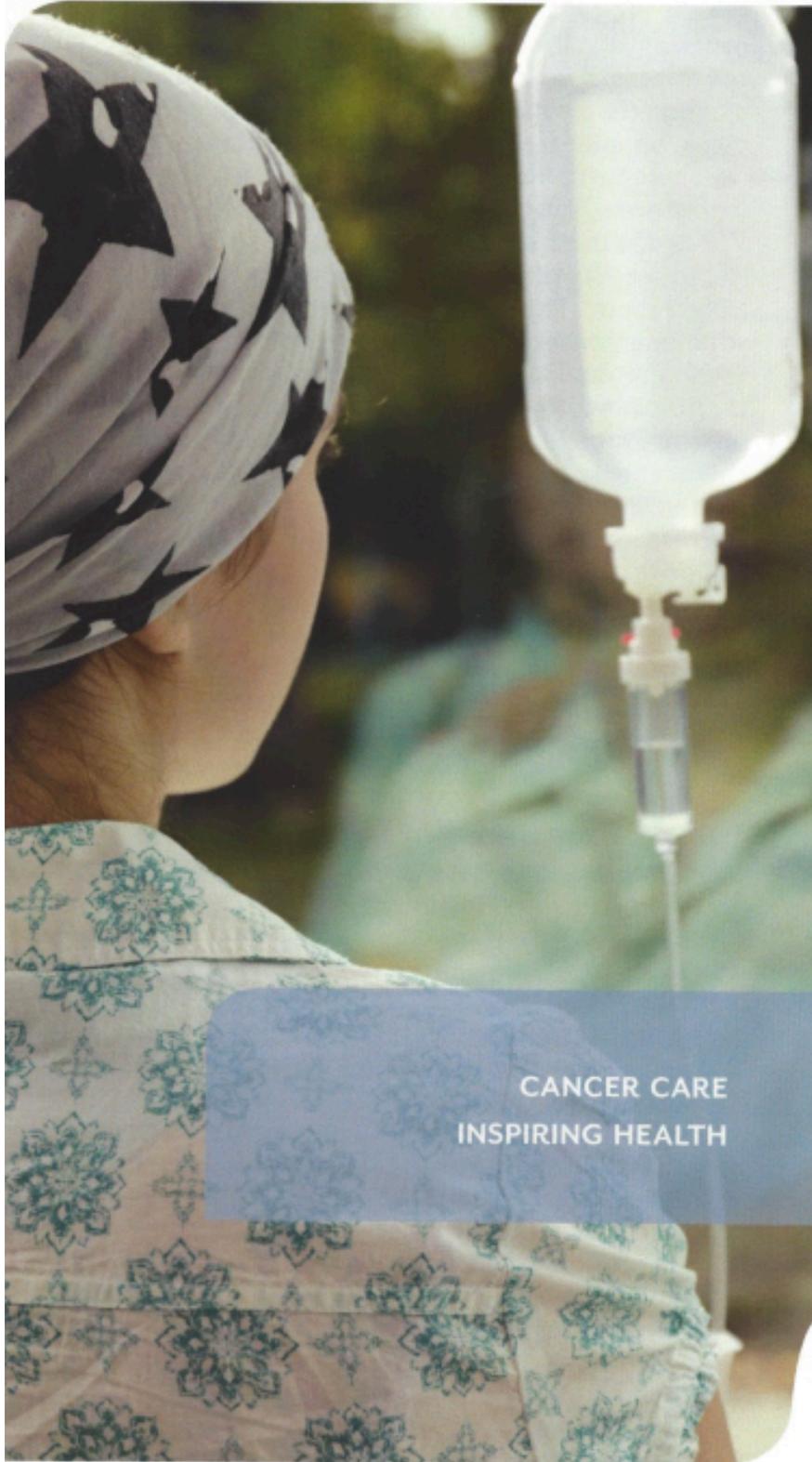


CHEMOTHERAPY



CANCER CARE  
INSPIRING HEALTH

When making chemotherapy it is not a one size fits all process. It is a custom order similar to ordering a milkshake. Each order is processed specifically for you. Like making a milkshake, making chemotherapy takes many steps, and many people are involved in the process.

## The process of making chemotherapy

While chemotherapy is a life-saving treatment it can be harmful to people who do not have cancer. The pharmacy staff that makes your chemotherapy is trained on the proper technique and use safety measure to protect themselves and others. The pharmacist or pharmacy technician must also prepare the chemotherapy in a timely but accurate manner.

There are many steps:

1. Before chemotherapy, your doctor will assess you and order blood work. This is to ensure your body can handle chemotherapy.
2. Your doctor will check your lab results. Have your blood work done one day before your chemotherapy session so that your doctor can have the information he needs to determine your care.
3. Your doctor will order a drug name, dose, frequency and liquid to contain the drug.

4. The pharmacist and nurse will review the doctor's order and check if the chemotherapy is safe for you.

5. A pharmacy technician will make your chemotherapy in a biological safety cabinet using sterile needles, drug containers (vials), and bags of fluids. Each chemotherapy dose takes 20 - 40 minutes to make. Some drugs are powders and need time to dissolve.

6. The final product will be checked by a pharmacist and sent to the infusion center. The infusion nurse will perform the final check to make sure it is your chemotherapy and the label matches the doctor's order.

### Why does it take a long time to receive chemotherapy?

Your doctor needs to see your lab results to determine what treatment you should receive. The pharmacist will review your doctor's order. Then the pharmacy technician will use proper technique to make your chemotherapy. This takes time because chemotherapy must be accurate and safe.

### Why can it not be made ahead of time?

Chemotherapy cannot be made ahead of time. Your doctor needs your lab results before he or she can order an effective and safe treatment for you. We need your lab work and we need to complete a physical assessment to make sure you are able to handle your chemotherapy.

## Additional safety precautions

Each pharmacist will process each chemotherapy order one at a time. The pharmacist wants to focus his or her full attention to the order, so that you may have an effective and safe cancer treatment. This means the pharmacist will not look at the second chemotherapy order until her or she finished reviewing the first order. It is like waiting in line at the grocery store.

## The process of making chemotherapy

**STERILE:** The chemotherapy must be sterile (germ-free), so you do not get infected by the chemotherapy as it is administered into your body.

**ACCURATE:** The chemotherapy must be made accurate, which means it is made exactly as your doctor orders. With chemotherapy, there is no room for error. The pharmacist must be 100% correct, and accuracy takes time. Every chemotherapy order is reviewed by the nurse and the pharmacist to ensure safe medication use. In addition every medication that is prepared must be the right drug and the right dose. The fluid that contains the drug must be right. Also, the chemotherapy must be labeled accurately to include the necessary information.

**TIMELY:** Chemotherapy must be made in a timely fashion. We do not prepare your chemotherapy until you arrive after all parameters specified by your doctor are met. Timely does not mean as fast as possible. The staff

will take as much time as necessary to make an effective and safe chemotherapy. Timely means the least amount of time that still produces an accurate and sterile product.

Chemotherapy requires time and precision. We work to provide you with the best care possible and appreciate your patience and understanding.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your chemotherapy treatment more enjoyable.

*Together, we're inspiring health in our communities by caring for you and your family throughout every stage of life.*

## **INFUSION CENTER**

1701 South Creasy Lane  
Lafayette, IN 47905  
P (765) 502 - 4960

[StE.org](http://StE.org)

