

# Iron (Iron Dextran — Infed<sup>®</sup>, Sodium Ferric Gluconate — Ferrlecit<sup>®</sup>, Iron Sucrose — Venofer<sup>®</sup>)

Iron supplements are given to people who have low iron levels, low red blood cells or both.

## How Is It Given?

- dark liquid by IV (intravenous)
- by muscle injection (intramuscular injection)

## What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

### Common:

- nausea
- stomach pain
- diarrhea
- headache
- low blood pressure

### Less common:

- allergic reaction while you are getting the iron (the infusion). Tell your nurse or doctor right away if you have:
  - rash
  - itching
  - chest pain or tightness
  - problems breathing or irregular heartbeats
  - dizziness
  - nausea (upset stomach)

- lightheadedness
- swelling of your hands or feet.
- injection site discomfort of skin color changes
- muscle pain or cramps
- weakness
- lack of sleep
- blurred vision

## Special Notes

- Do not take this medicine if you have an allergy to iron or a disorder that causes iron overload.
- If you receive iron by an IV, you may need to first receive a small amount in a test dose to see if you can take a full dose.
- Tell your doctor if you are taking any iron supplements or multivitamins.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Your blood iron levels will be need to be checked while you take this medicine.
- If you will receive injections at home by a nurse or caregiver, you should:
  - Keep medicine out of reach of children and pets.
  - Store the medicine at room temperature out of direct light.
  - Put used needles in a container that has a hard cover. Ask your nurse if you have any questions.

**(over)**

## When To Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have:

- itching, hives or rash
- swelling in your hands, feet or face
- chest pain or tightness
- slow, fast or irregular heartbeat
- shortness of breath
- flu-like symptoms (such as chills or fever)
- lightheadedness or dizziness
- bloody urine, stools or both
- severe abdominal (belly) pain or vomiting (throwing up).

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.