



A Lifeline for Patients  
Living with Gaucher Disease



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## Welcome to Gaucher Connection eNews

### Hello !

We're pleased to provide you with an update on the Cerezyme® Home Infusion Program currently available across Canada. In this issue we discuss the program, its' costs and benefits for patients, and the criteria for participation.

### The Home Infusion Program

This program is a system, administered by Shoppers Drug Mart and supported by Genzyme, which supports patients who are able to receive their Cerezyme® infusions at home. While the program is available right across Canada, most participants are located in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. Based on feedback from both patients and nurses the program has been quite successful to date.

### Patient Costs and Benefits

All costs for the home infusion program, including pharmacy dispensing fees, are covered by Genzyme. One important benefit is the time and money patients can save. Because the entire home infusion process takes about an hour and a half, people not only save the time they may have waited for the medication preparation, but also the transportation and parking charges associated with hospital-based infusions.

Many patients are able work or play on computers during the infusion, or relax by reading or watching television. Some patients get important one-on-one time with their infusion nurse, and even develop a friendly and trusting relationship (since infusions are almost always given by the same nurse).

Patients in the home infusion program do have responsibilities. They must pick up the medication from their local pharmacy and ensure it's transported and stored according to the pharmacist's instructions. Both the pharmacist at the local pharmacy and the Shoppers Drug Mart nursing staff provide training to ensure medications are safely stored.

The program provides benefits to those outside the program as well simply by freeing up hospital space and valuable resources that can be used to help others.

### Who Can Participate

There are important criteria that must be met before home infusions can be done. Most importantly, a patient must actually want to receive their infusions at home. Then, there must be appropriate vascular access and the patient's home must be reasonably close to an emergency facility in case of a reaction. It's recommended that patients have a minimum of eight reaction-free infusions in a hospital clinic before they participate in this program.

If these criteria are met, several steps are followed. First, hospitals and clinics contact Genzyme or Shoppers Drug Mart to let them know a patient is interested. A Shoppers Drug Mart nurse then meets with the patient to discuss the program in detail, including the criteria for participation and the patients' role.

After this initial meeting, a Shoppers Drug Mart nurse visits the patient's home to ensure it is suitable for giving infusions. For example, the home is equipped with water and electricity, and there are no animals in the home that could pose a risk to caregivers. With the patient they will evaluate and choose a location in the home where the infusion can take place. The home visit is important to ensure the patient is comfortable.

Finally, the hospital nursing staff will complete a comprehensive nursing history on the patient and give this to the Shoppers Drug Mart nurse.

At this point, Genzyme and Shoppers Drug Mart co-ordinate on the logistics for the first home infusion and the delivery of medications. The first infusion gets a little more attention, with a supervisor from Shoppers Drug Mart attending to make sure it goes smoothly. Afterwards, the regular nurse and patient can co-ordinate the infusions every two weeks.

### Find Out More

Wondering if the Home Infusion Program might be the right choice for you? If you'd like more information or details regarding what's involved you can find out more about the program simply by talking to the nursing staff at your infusion clinic.

**Learn more about Managing Gaucher at the Gaucher Connection website. [Go >>](#)**

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