

Subcutaneous (SubQ) Treatment FAQ Quick Guide for Lung Cancer Patients

What Is SubQ Delivery?

Subcutaneous (SubQ) delivery means your medication is injected just under the skin—usually in the belly, thigh, or upper arm. It's different from an IV infusion, which delivers medication directly into a vein. Some lung cancer treatments, including certain immunotherapies, are now available as SubQ injections.

How Is SubQ Different From IV Infusion?

The main difference is how the medication enters your body. SubQ injections go under the skin and typically take just a few minutes. IV infusions go into a vein and may take 30 minutes to several hours. The medication works the same—the difference is in delivery, not effectiveness.

Which Lung Cancer Treatments Are Available as SubQ?

Some immunotherapies and certain supportive care medications are now offered as SubQ injections. Not all treatments have a SubQ option. Your oncologist will determine what's available and appropriate for your specific treatment plan.

Is SubQ as Effective as IV?

Yes—when a treatment is approved in both forms, it works the same way in your body. Clinical studies evaluate SubQ options carefully to ensure they provide the same effectiveness and safety as IV delivery.

What Are the Side Effects?

Side effects depend on the medication itself—not the delivery method. With SubQ injections, you may notice mild redness, swelling, itching, or bruising at the injection site. These reactions are usually temporary and manageable.

Can I Receive SubQ Treatment at Home?

Some SubQ treatments may eventually be given at home by a trained healthcare professional or caregiver. Availability depends on your treatment, insurance coverage, and your care team's recommendation.

How Do I Know If SubQ Is Right for Me?

The best first step is to ask your care team. Questions to consider:

- Is my current treatment available as SubQ?
- Would SubQ save time compared to IV infusion?
- Are there any reasons SubQ may not be appropriate for me?

Your oncologist can help you weigh the benefits and decide what fits your treatment plan.