What is extravasation?
Extravasation happens when a chemotherapy drug leaks out of the vein or intravenous (IV) catheter into the tissue around the skin during infusion. This may cause skin irritation, redness, swelling, blisters, or wounds that are difficult to heal.

How to Care for a Possible Extravasation
• Apply [hot] [cold] (nurse to circle one) compresses to the affected area four to five times daily for the next 48 hours. Do not leave compresses on for more than 20 minutes at a time.
• Keep the affected arm elevated on a pillow as much as possible to reduce swelling and discomfort.
• Do not soak the affected area. After showering with mild soap, gently dry the site.
• You may be told to apply medication to the site. Do not apply any lotion, cream, or ointment to the site unless you are told to do so.
• Do not massage the area.
• Keep the area covered when you are outside. Do not expose it to sunlight.
• Avoid placing tight clothing or jewelry over the area.
• Call your health care provider right away if you experience any of these problems:
  - Increased pain, burning, redness, swelling, or decreased movement
  - Any sign of skin breakdown such as blisters or fluid drainage
  - Numbness, tingling, or change in sensation in the hand or arm
  - Skin feeling warm or hot to the touch
  - A fever of 100.5° F or higher

Follow-Up Instructions
Your health care provider may want to see you in the office to check your skin. Be sure to follow up as your health care team instructs.
Please be sure to call your health care provider right away if you have any questions or concerns.