

T34 SYRINGE PUMP - Hospital Patient Information Leaflet.



This leaflet will explain what it is, how it works, and what to do if there are any worries or concerns.

What is a syringe pump?

A syringe driver is a small, quiet pump that is powered by a battery. A syringe which contains medicines sits on the top of the pump. A fine tube will be attached to the syringe filled with medicines. The pump slowly gives medicines over 24 hours. The plastic tube can stay under the skin for up to 3 days and will be checked by the nurse several times a day.

Why is a syringe pump needed?

A syringe pump is very useful to treat symptoms at any stage of an illness or treatment, if important medicines are unable to be taken by mouth. This can also be for other reasons:

- Being too weak to swallow medication.
- Feeling very sick or being sick.
- The body cannot absorb the tablets or liquid medicines properly.
- Symptoms are difficult to control.

What medicine is in the syringe pump?

The type of medicine that is put in the syringe will be prescribed by the doctor on the ward, and will depend on the symptoms being felt. The levels or doses of the medicines are also worked out separately for each person.

Some symptoms can be treated using medicines in the syringe pump, such as:

- Pain
- Feeling very sick
- Being sick
- Being restless or anxious
- Noisy breathing

Starting the syringe pump.

The nurse will set up the syringe pump, they will bring all of the equipment needed. The medicines will usually be given over a twenty-four-hour period. The nurse will fill a new syringe with the medicine, check the syringe pump, the tubing and where it goes into the skin. They will also check that the doses are at the right level.

It can take a few hours for the medicine to work, so when the syringe pump is set up the nurse may give an injection to treat any symptoms.

The syringe pump is working when the green light is flashing regularly and “Pump delivering” is shown in the display.

Looking after the syringe pump.

- Keep it out of the sun and don't let it get hot
- Try not to drop it
- Keep it dry

Is it ok to have a shower or bath?

- Yes, but it is important to keep the syringe pump and the dressing dry. Talk to the nurse about how to do this.

Call the nurse if:

- The syringe pump gets wet.
- Symptoms remain or change, more medication may be needed.
- The syringe pump is dropped.
- The skin around the plastic tube is red, swollen or painful,
- The tube has come out.
- The syringe pump alarms.

If the syringe pump alarms, please do not try to fix it, call the nurse so it can be checked.

It is natural to feel nervous when starting any new treatment. If there are any concerns or worries about why a syringe pump is needed, or any other questions, it is important to ask the nurse who will help and explain.



Swansea Bay University Health Board

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