

# Syringe Pump

Palliative Care Team

## What is a syringe pump?



A small battery-controlled box containing a syringe of medication that is slowly delivered over 24 hours through a small tube that sits under the skin.

## Why do I need a syringe pump?

They are used to help control symptoms such as pain, nausea and vomiting. A pump may be used because taking medications by mouth is difficult, or because medications are not being properly absorbed. Syringe pumps are used for different reasons and for different lengths of time depending on your symptoms.

## Who will look after the syringe pump?

The nurses helping to look after you will also look after your pump. This may be the nurses on the ward if you are in hospital, or district nurses if you are at home. This will include refilling the pump when needed (at least every 24 hours), making sure it is working properly and removing it if it is no longer needed.

## Managing your syringe pump

- Please do not get the pump wet
- Please take care when washing, dressing and moving around as it is common for the tube to become dislodged. If this happens please contact your nurse
- The pump should always be lower than the tube site to help deliver medications properly
- Keep the syringe pump out of direct sunlight and do not allow it to get too hot

## Storing the medications and equipment

- Please keep them at room temperature

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

- Please keep medications out of reach of children and vulnerable people
- If they have been provided for you at home, please let your district nurses know that you have them and where they are kept

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- ***There is a green flashing light*** – This is normal and shows the pump is working. It flashes approximately twice a minute.
- ***My syringe pump is beeping and a red light is flashing*** – All you need to do is inform your nurse. This could be because the pump is blocked, has run out of medication, or the battery is low. Your nurse will be able to help with this.
- ***The tube entry site is painful, red, hard or wet*** – All you need to do is inform your nurse. The nurse will assess this and it is likely the tube will need to be moved to a different site.
- ***Discolouration of medications*** – All you need to do is inform your nurse and they will assess your pump.
- ***Extra doses*** – When you have a syringe driver, extra doses to help control symptoms may be required.

## Contact Details / Useful numbers

If you have any questions about the content of this leaflet then please contact the Specialist Palliative Care team on: 01902 695212

## References

Palliative Care Guidelines for the use of drugs in symptom control. West Midlands Palliative Care Physicians. Revised 2023

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਆਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。