

Please do not:

- interfere with the line or pump
- press the buttons on the pump control panel
- get the syringe pump wet
- drop the syringe pump
- leave the syringe pump in an area which is hot or in bright sunlight

Please contact a nurse if any of the following happen:

- you are worried that the syringe pump is not working or is damaged
- the colour of the medicines has changed or is cloudy
- the skin around the infusion site is red, swollen or painful
- the alarm sounds
- you have any other worries

Contact

(For patients in a community setting)

If you have any concerns before you are started on a Syringe Pump, speak to a member of your medical or nursing team.

Patient Information

Syringe Pumps

This leaflet gives you an overview of the reasons you may be given a McKinley T34 Syringe Pump in Palliative Care.



Specialist Palliative Care Team

What is a McKinley T34 syringe pump?

This is a small, portable pump which is battery powered. It allows medicines to be given continuously just under the skin over a 24 hour period.

Why do I need one?

The syringe pump is a different way of giving medicines to control your symptoms, and will reduce the number of injections you need. This could be for pain, controlling sickness or to help you relax. You may need it if:

- you are having difficulty swallowing medicines
- you are being sick
- your symptoms need better control

The reason will be explained to you by your doctor or nurse. A syringe pump may be used at any stage of your illness and may be stopped if it is no longer needed.

How does it work?

A small needle will be inserted just under your skin, either on your tummy, chest or on the top of your arm or leg (this is the 'infusion site').

The needle will be connected by a thin tube to a syringe containing your medicine which is attached to the syringe pump. This set usually only needs changing every few days, but if it gets sore it may be changed sooner. The tube will be held in place by a small, clear dressing, so the area can be checked.

The syringe pump gives the medicines over 24 hours. Each day a nurse will come and fill a new syringe for you.

How do I know the syringe pump is working fine?

Before setting up the syringe pump, the nurse will check it to see if it is working.

When running a small light above the 'ON/OFF' button will flash green regularly. If it turns red, there is a problem with the pump and you should contact your nurse as soon as possible.

Who will look after it?

Your nurse will regularly check that the pump is working correctly, that you are getting the medication prescribed and that the infusion site is comfortable.

What to do if the pump beeps or an alarm sounds?

Do not worry if the syringe pump beeps or an alarm sounds. Please inform your nurse as soon as possible. They will be able to deal with it for you on the ward, or advise on what to do if you are at home.

Some useful lifestyle advice:

- if you are walking around, you may find it helpful to carry the syringe pump in a small bag or pouch.
- when you are in bed or resting in a chair, the syringe pump can be put on a flat surface next to you
- your nurse will advise on what to do if you want a bath or shower