

Your Syringe Driver



Patient Information

Why do I need a syringe driver?

The aim of using a syringe driver is to help control any symptoms you may be suffering from as a result of your illness.

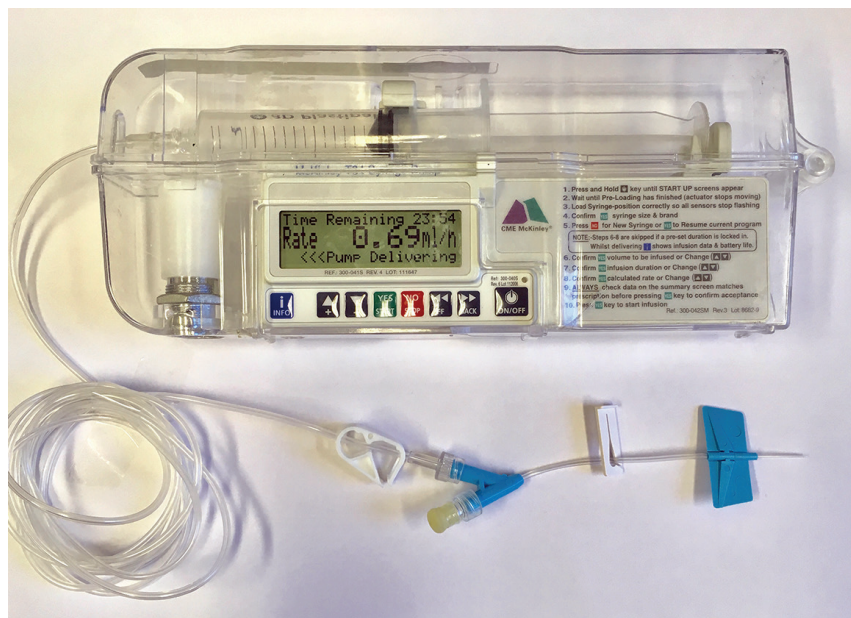
For example:

- If you are feeling sick or being sick
- Have swallowing difficulties
- If you are too weak or too ill to take medicines by mouth.

Also:

- It may help with the absorption of medicine
- It will help to maintain a constant amount of the medicine in your bloodstream
- It will mean you do not have to keep having injections.

Having a syringe driver should not stop you moving about if you are able to, or get in your way if you are in bed.



What is a syringe driver?

A small battery controlled device which will administer medications over a 24 hour period.

Your syringe driver consists of:

- A line with a small needle which goes under the skin
- A battery controlled pump and its cover
- A syringe connected to the line which contains the medication.

Where will the needle be placed?

In your abdomen, upper arm or thigh.

Please inform the nurse if:

- The needle site is red or sore
- The pump is not working
- It does not improve your symptoms, e.g. you still have pain or feel sick
- The needle falls out
- The pump has been dropped
- The pump gets wet.

What do I do if the alarm sounds?

The syringe driver has an alarm which will sound if it detects a problem. The infusion will stop and the flashing light on the front will turn red.

The alarm will also sound 15 minutes before the end of the infusion.

If the alarm is sounding you should inform the nurse.

If you are at home contact the district nursing team for advice.

The alarm can be silenced by pressing the green 'yes' key. Please do not press any keys unless instructed to do so by the nurse.

Further Information

If you are worried, need more information or have any questions about your syringe driver, please contact your doctor or nurse.

Doctor: Tel:

Nurse: Tel:

District Nursing Team: Tel:

Other: Tel:

Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

Trust Values

Courtesy and respect

- A welcoming and positive attitude
- Polite, friendly and interested in people
- Value and respect people as individuals
So people feel **welcome**

Attentively kind and helpful

- Look out for dignity, privacy & humanity
- Attentive, responsive & take time to help
- Visible presence of staff to provide care
So people feel **cared for**

Responsive communication

- Listen to people & answer their questions
- Keep people clearly informed
- Involve people
So people feel **in control**

Effective and professional

- Safe, knowledgeable and reassuring
- Effective care / services from joined up teams
- Organised and timely, looking to improve
So people feel **safe**



The hospital is able to arrange for an interpreter to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay through INTRAN.

If you need an interpreter or a person to sign, please let us know.

If you require a large print version of this booklet, please contact PALS on 01493 453240 or Community PALS on 01502 718666

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© July 2014
Revised March 2018
James Paget University Hospitals NHS
Foundation Trust
Review Date: March 2021
NU 49 version 2