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NHS
Sherwood Forest Hospitals
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Me and my T34/BodyGuard T syringe driver pump

Information for patients



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Together with the information supplied by your healthcare team, this leaflet has been created to answer some of the questions you may have about a syringe driver pump.

What is a syringe driver pump?

A syringe driver pump is a small, portable, battery-operated device that delivers your medication steadily over a 24-hour period, from a syringe mounted onto the pump. A tiny needle (butterfly) is inserted into the skin, this is then connected to the syringe driver via a small thin tube (giving set). The device pushes the plunger of the syringe, and the medication is then delivered through the tubing / needle into the skin.

You may notice a light flashing on the syringe driver pump and an intermittent whirring noise. This indicates that the syringe driver pump is working correctly.

The syringe driver pump will be secured in a small see-through case, to avoid the keypad being pressed or the syringe becoming displaced accidentally.

The nursing staff will check your pump regularly, to ensure that it is working properly.

Where will the needle be placed?

This will vary from person to person. The nurse will insert the small needle into the tissue just under the skin. The needle will be held in place by a clear dressing, which will also keep the needle site clean and dry. Usual sites for placement of the needle include the upper arm, upper chest, shoulder, abdomen (tummy) or thighs.

When could a syringe driver pump be used?

People of all ages use syringe driver pumps. They are used to help people who:

- May be feeling nauseous or are vomiting.
- May be struggling to take tablets due to swallowing difficulties.
- Are weak or unconscious.
- May not be able to absorb oral medication (tablets).

A syringe driver pump is also used:

- To avoid giving frequent injections.
- To control symptoms prior to returning to oral medication.
- To allow multiple medications to be given at the same time.
- For symptom management in palliative and end of life care.

The use of a syringe driver pump will be individual to you and your needs. It may be that you need to use a syringe driver pump for a short time, or sometimes longer depending upon your personal needs. Your healthcare team will explain to you why a syringe driver pump may benefit you, if suggested.

What do you need to do?

Tell your nurse or doctor if you are still having problems with your symptoms or if they become more severe.

If you hear a bleeping noise, please call for help immediately to alert nursing staff to the alarm.

Please do not switch off, press any keys or try to silence the pump yourself, as this may result in a delay to medication being delivered as prescribed and / or delay the nurse in responding to an alarm.

Please do not place your syringe driver pump underneath your pillows or sheets, as this may make any alarms difficult to hear.

Keep the syringe driver pump and needle site dry. Take care when showering / washing. **Do not immerse the syringe driver pump in water as it is not waterproof.**

How will a syringe driver pump affect my lifestyle?

The pump is designed to make life more comfortable and if possible, your daily routine and lifestyle can continue as it was, with some potential limitations. Please speak to your nurse or doctor if you have any questions regarding activity and your pump.

Who can I call if there is a problem, or I have a concern about the syringe driver pump?

In hospital, please speak to a doctor or nurse if you have any further questions or need further information. You can summon assistance by using your call bell.

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Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions
Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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