



DO contact your nurse if the syringe pump is dropped or the alarm sounds, they will give further advice. This is important as it may mean the pump is not working properly. Any adjustments to the syringe pump will be made by your community nurse, hospital, hospice, or care home staff nurse.

DO keep the syringe pump and the infusion site (area where the plastic tube goes into the skin) dry. If the infusion site does get wet, gently pat the skin dry and inform your nurse.

DO inform your nurse if the site becomes red and irritated or if the syringe pump is dropped.

DO inform your nurse if you have any hospital appointments, procedures or scans.



DO NOT tamper with the syringe or the syringe pump when it is running.

DO NOT touch any of the buttons on the screen as this might result in you receiving too much or too little medication or none at all.

DO NOT expose the syringe pump to direct sunlight or heat as this can damage the screen on the syringe pump or cause some medications to be less effective.

DO NOT put the syringe pump next to your mobile phone or store together in the carry case/ bag/ or near any gadgets that you know are magnetic.

DO NOT take your syringe pump into the bath or shower as it will not work if it gets wet. Your nurse will discuss this with you.

Who should I contact if I have any worries or questions?

District Nurse

Time Available

Name

Phone Number

Out of Hours Contact

Time Available

Name

Phone Number

GP

Time Available

Name

Phone Number

Hospice/Palliative Care Nurse

Time Available

Name

Phone Number

Hospital/Ward Nurse

Time Available

Name

Phone Number

If you no longer need your syringe pump it is important to return it to:

Nurse

Location

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Health and
Social Care



A Syringe Pump Guide for Patients and Carers

This leaflet answers some common questions about a syringe pump.

It provides general guidance. However, for any concerns or queries you should talk to a health care professional e.g. your District Nurse, Ward Nurse, GP or Pharmacist.

What is a syringe pump?

The syringe pump is a small, portable battery-controlled device that can be carried in a pouch, in your pocket or placed near you if you are in bed. The syringe pump is fitted with a syringe that gives you medication through a plastic tube just under the skin. This allows the medication to be absorbed and delivered slowly into the bloodstream.

The syringe pump delivers medication over 24 hours. The medication in your syringe pump will be replaced by a nurse each day.



Why do I need to have my medication given through a syringe pump?

Your Doctor, Nurse or Pharmacist will discuss with you the reason(s) for having some of your medication through a syringe pump. They will provide advice on the medication required and how long you may need the pump. The pump:

- ensures you receive a regular and even amount of your medications.
- helps to reduce the need for repeated injections into your skin. You may still need additional injections if your symptoms are not well controlled.
- helps with symptoms such as pain, shortness of breath, sickness and anxiety.
- helps if you have difficulty swallowing oral medication.

Which professional will look after my syringe pump?

The medication in the syringe will be changed each day by a registered nurse who will check that:

- the syringe pump is working properly.
- the area where the plastic tube goes into the skin is comfortable.

- the medication is helping and not causing any problems.
- the green light is flashing on the syringe pump.

If you are staying in a hospital, hospice or nursing care home:

- the nursing staff will check your syringe pump regularly.

If you are at home or in a residential care home:

- your community nurse will check your syringe pump at each visit.

How long will I need a syringe pump?

Some patients may only require medications via a syringe pump to control their symptoms for a limited period of time, others may need it for longer. Your syringe pump may be discontinued and your medication changed to an alternative route such as oral when your symptoms are controlled.

Can I go on holiday with my syringe pump?

If you are aiming to go on holiday, please speak to your nurse or doctor as some planning for your syringe pump will be required. This may take a few weeks to organise.