



Information about your syringe driver

Information for patients

What is a syringe driver?

It is a small, portable battery-operated pump. It allows medicines to be given continuously under the skin over a 24 hour period.

Why do I need one?

The syringe driver is a different way of delivering medicine to control your symptoms. It may be needed if:

- You are having difficulty swallowing
- You are feeling sick
- Your symptoms have been difficult to control
- You may be too weak or ill to take medicines by mouth

How does it work?

A nurse inserts a small needle or plastic tube under your skin. This is attached to a syringe containing your medicine which is located on the syringe driver.

The syringe driver gives your medicine by gradually pushing it in over 24 hours. A nurse will renew the syringe every 24 hours or if the dose needs to be changed.

How will I know if it is working and who will look after it?

The nurses caring for you will check that the driver is working correctly, that you are receiving your medicine as prescribed, that you are comfortable and that the infusion site is not red or inflamed.

A small light on the syringe driver will flash green. Please inform the nurse if this turns red as it may indicate that the driver is not working.

What to do if the syringe driver alarm starts

Please call your nurse using your nurse call button. Please do not worry as problems usually can be sorted out promptly.



Some DOs:

- Inform the nurse looking after you if the needle site feels sore or painful, or is red and inflamed.
- Tell the nurse if you are still getting symptoms (pain or sickness).
- Some people find it easier to carry the syringe driver in a small bag or put it in their pocket.
- Talk to staff about how to manage having a wash or shower.

Some DON'Ts:

- Do not drop the syringe driver.
- Do not press the buttons on the driver.
- Do not get the syringe driver wet.
- Do not expose syringe contents to bright sunlight.

If you accidentally drop the driver or get it wet please tell your nurse immediately even if it seems to be working.

If you have any concerns about the syringe driver please discuss them with the nurse looking after you.

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Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

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