

About the Syringe Driver

It is a small battery operated pump. The medication is in a syringe inserted into the pump.

The medication is given through a thin tube attached to a small needle/cannula under the skin. The pump is portable and can be carried in a bag or placed discreetly under the pillow.

When is the Syringe Driver used?

People of all ages use syringe drivers for a number of reasons such as:

- When a person is unable to take or tolerate medication by mouth.
- If symptoms can be better controlled with a continuous infusion of medication.

There is often a combination of medicines in the syringe to manage symptoms e.g. pain, nausea, restlessness and anxiety.

Who looks after the Syringe Driver?

The hospice staff, district nurses and you.

The doctor prescribes the medication for the pump.

A nurse will renew the syringe every day, and the tubing and needle/cannula when necessary.

The nurse will also check if the medication is working as expected.

Points to Remember

The following points are for you and those at home with you to remember:

- The pump is reliable.
- The design incorporates a lockable syringe cover and comes with a carry bag. This provides protection against accidental syringe displacement.
- When the pump is operating a **green** light will flash intermittently.
- The pump uses alkaline 9V batteries. Your nurse will change these when needed.



Alarms

- The alarm will sound and light flashes **red** if the syringe is removed or displaced, is empty or the tube is blocked or kinked. A message appears on the screen indicating the cause. Note the message and contact your nurse/the hospice.
- It is normal for the pump to beep occasionally when near the end of infusion. The light will flash **green**. Only contact the hospice if your nurse is not due to visit.

Do's and Don'ts

Do: Tell the nurse if your skin is sore or red where the needle is placed.

Do: Contact the hospice if the needle comes out, or the alarm is sounding, or you have any concerns about the pump or medication.

Do: Keep medication in a secure place, away from children.

Don't: Bath/shower whilst wearing the pump. The nurse will give you instructions how to manage this.

Don't: Immerse the pump in water.

Don't: Drop the pump, strike it against hard objects or otherwise subject it to extreme physical stress. *This is a fragile electronic device.* Contact the hospice if this happens accidentally.

Contacts

District Nurse: _____

Hospice Nurse: _____

GP: _____

Pharmacist: _____

Please return the Syringe Driver to Arohanui Hospice



Using the NIKI T34 Syringe Driver at home: Patient / Carer Guide



This brochure provides information on how to use this syringe driver at home.

Arohanui Hospice

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