

# Information about your syringe driver pump (McKinley T34)

Information for patients



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Community nursing services

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## What is a T34 syringe driver pump?

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

## Why do I need one?

The syringe driver pump is an alternative way of delivering medications to control your symptoms. This may be for pain, sickness, agitation or to help you relax.

Using a syringe driver may be needed if:

- you are having difficulty swallowing your medication, or
- if your symptoms need more control.

The reasons will be explained to you by your nurse. A syringe driver pump may be used at any stage of your illness to control your symptoms.

## How does it work?

Your nurse will insert a small needle or plastic tube under your skin. This will be connected to a syringe driver pump containing your medication. The syringe driver pump gradually pushes the syringe plunger to deliver the drugs over 24 hours. Your nurse will change the syringe every 24 hours.

## How do I know if the syringe driver pump is working properly?

- Your nurse will check that the syringe driver pump is operating correctly daily and that you are receiving the medication prescribed.
- Your nurse will show you some simple checks to make sure things are working properly.
- A small light above the 'ON/OFF' button will flash green every 30 seconds. If it turns red, there is a problem with the pump and you should contact the nurse as soon as possible.

## What do I do if the alarm sounds?

- The most important thing is not to worry.
- Contact your nurse immediately, who will be able to advise what to do. Please do not try to do anything yourself without speaking with your nurse.

### ✓ Some do's

- ✓ When you are walking around, carry the syringe driver pump using the carry case provided or a small bag.
- ✓ Rest the syringe driver pump on the flat surface next to you.
- ✓ You should keep the syringe driver pump/needle site dry.
- ✓ Do contact the nurse if needle site is red, swollen, or painful.

### ✗ Some don'ts

- ✗ Do not interfere with the syringe driver pump.
- ✗ Do not get pump or needle site wet.
- ✗ Do not drop.
- ✗ Do not expose to heat or bright sunlight.