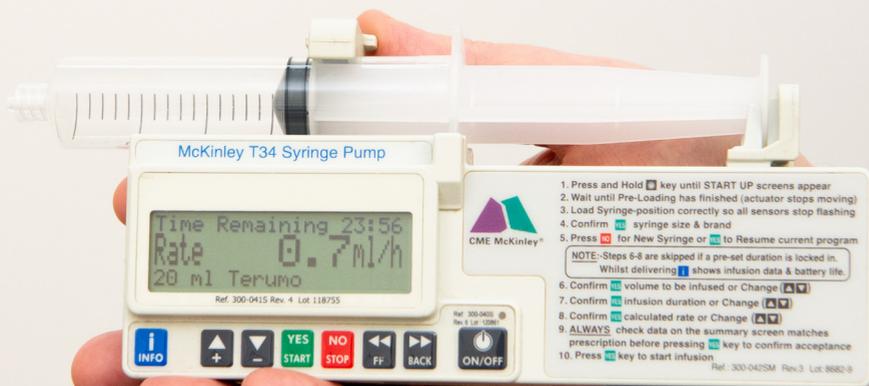




Information for Patients and Families

Information about your Syringe Pump - McKinley T34



**Community Children's Nurses
and Palliative Care Team**



Aim of the leaflet

This leaflet aims to tell you what a McKinley syringe pump is, how it works and how to care for it. It also provides advice for people using a syringe driver at home.

What is a syringe pump?

This is a small, portable pump which is battery operated. It allows medicines to be given continuously under the skin over a 24 hour period. It is small enough for you to carry in a pouch or pocket.

Why do I need a syringe pump?

A syringe pump delivers medicines to control your child's symptoms and may be considered for the following reasons:

- Your child is having difficulty swallowing medicines
- Your child is not able to absorb medication by mouth, for example, because they are vomiting
- Your child is too weak to take medications by mouth

A syringe pump reduces the need for repeated injections and gives a constant level of medication. We will talk to you about why it may be helpful for your child to have a syringe pump and about the medications we would put in it.

A syringe pump can be used at any stage of your child's illness and may be discontinued if it is no longer needed.

How does it work?

A nurse will insert a small needle or plastic tube under your child's skin. This will be connected by a thin tube to a syringe containing your child's medicine which is attached to the syringe pump. The needle/plastic tube will be taped in place and usually only needs changing every few days.

The syringe pump gradually pushes in the syringe plunger to deliver the medicines over 24 hours. A nurse will renew the syringe every 24 hours.

A green flashing light on the front of the syringe pump tells you that the pump is working and the medication is being delivered.

The syringe pump lock box

The lock box is a plastic case in which the syringe pump is placed whilst in use. It is used to safeguard your child's medication in the syringe pump whilst it is working.

How do I look after my syringe pump?

There are three key things to remember:

- Do not get the pump wet as it is not waterproof
- Be careful not to drop the syringe driver
- Keep it out of direct sunlight and away from heat

Your nurses will regularly check that the pump is operating correctly, that your child is receiving the medication prescribed and that the needle / tube site is comfortable. They will also show you some simple checks to make sure things are working properly.

What should I look out for?

Contact your nurse if:

- You are worried that the syringe pump is not working properly or has been damaged
- The colour of the medicines has changed or become cloudy
- The skin around the needle/tube is red, swollen or painful
- The alarm sounds

What do I do if the pump alarms?

- If the syringe pump beeps or an alarm sounds the most important thing is not to worry. You do not need to do anything apart from informing your child's nurse using the contact numbers provided as soon as possible and they will be able to advise on what to do.
- Please do not try to do anything yourself without speaking to your child's nurse

Who to contact

In hours 0121 245 5775

Out of hours 07715 810 760