

Information About Your Syringe Driver

What is a Syringe Driver?

A syringe driver is a battery powered syringe pump. It is made to be small enough to be carried by you. Attached to the driver will be a syringe with your medicine. The medicine travels down a fine tube and through a cannula (small tube), placed just under your skin. A clear dressing holds the cannula in place. The syringe normally only needs to be filled every 24 hours by your community nurse, however there may be times when this needs to be done more often.

Why do I need a syringe driver?

Your doctor and nurse will have talked to you about why you need a syringe driver for your medicines.

- To help with your symptoms
- To avoid the need for frequent injections, (the cannula itself only needs to be changed every seven days)
- Sometimes medicine taken by mouth can make you feel sick
- It may also be used to manage symptoms before a return to tablets

Ring your nurse if any of these things occur

- If your symptoms are not managed
- If the cannula or site is painful, red or swollen
- If the cannula comes out
- If the medicine appears to have been given too quickly or too slowly
- If the light stops flashing
- If the plunger in the syringe has not moved
- If you hear the alarm sound
- The alarm will sound 15-30 minutes prior to the end of the infusion or if battery is low

Continued overleaf...

Originator: Community Nursing

DO

- Eat and drink as you like
- Keep all medicines out of the reach and sight of children or animals and in a safe place
- Protect the syringe driver from heat, direct sunlight, cold or getting wet

DO NOT take a shower or bath with the syringe driver in place as it will break.



If the syringe driver is dropped, falls in water, please contact your nurse straight away as she/he will need to bring you a new syringe driver.

GP Out of Hours Service

Tel: 0151 678 8496

17.00pm - 08.30am weekdays.

24 hour cover weekends & Bank Holidays.