

LOOKING AFTER THE SYRINGE PUMP

It is best to keep the syringe pump in a dark cover to protect the contents from sunlight. Lightweight holders are available if you wish to be mobile.

Syringe pumps are sturdy, but they can be damaged if they are dropped or stood on. They must not get wet, so please ask your nurse for advice on bathing or showering.

If you no longer need the syringe pump, please store safely until your nurse can collect it.

To find out more, please contact any of our **ellenor** nurses on 01474 320007.

ellenor.⁺

MCKINLEY SYRINGE PUMPS

Part of providing the best care and support for families, means being there for as long as a family needs us.

You can help us to be there, when we're needed.

Please speak to a member of staff or visit our website for ways you can help.

Thank you

www.ellenor.org

ellenor is the operating name of Ellenor Lions Hospices a charity registered in England and Wales (1121561), and a company limited by guarantee (6302132). Registered office at Coldharbour Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7HQ.

ellenor cares for the whole family

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet explains the use of the syringe pump. If you need any more information, please ask your nurse, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

WHAT IS A SYRINGE PUMP?

A small lightweight, portable device operated by a 9V battery. It delivers medication slowly and steadily over a 24 hour period.

The syringe is connected to the pump which will be filled with an injectable medication. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and adjusted as necessary.

IS A SYRINGE PUMP NEEDED?

They are used for a number of reasons. The most common are:

- It is a simpler and more comfortable way of receiving medication for people who would otherwise need repeat injections.
- Some people find it difficult to swallow their medication in tablet or syrup form.
- Some people may be vomiting or feeling sick and cannot keep medicines in their stomach long enough for them to work properly.

HOW WILL IT BE CONNECTED?

A long thin plastic tube with a tiny needle is connected to the syringe. The needle is inserted just under the skin and a clear dressing applied to keep it clean, dry and in place.

It is normally inserted in the upper arm, thighs or abdomen, although other parts of the body may be chosen for comfort and convenience. Once the needle is in place, it should stay in place for many days before it needs replacing.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR?

Sometimes the medication in the syringe can cause a local skin reaction. Your nurse check this regularly. If you notice redness, swelling or discomfort, please tell your nurse. If the area becomes sore, we can place the needle into another part of the body.

SYRINGE PUMP ALARMS

A small green light on the pump flashes to show it is working. An alarm will sound if:

- The battery is low or empty
- The syringe is empty or almost empty
- The infusion tubing is blocked
- The syringe has become displaced

Please contact your nurse as soon as possible.