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INPATIENT & CARERS INFORMATION LEAFLET

The McKinley Bodyguard T Syringe Pump

What is a McKinley Bodyguard T Syringe Pump?



For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

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Working with you, for you

This is a small battery pump with a syringe that has your medicines in it. The medicines are given through a small plastic tube which is put into the fatty layer under the skin, and are then absorbed into your body. The pump will deliver your medicine slowly over 24 hours. The pump can be used to give you one, two or three medicines.

Why do I need a McKinley Bodyguard T syringe pump?

Using a pump does not mean that your medicines have stopped working or are not strong enough. It's just that sometimes it is easier for you to be given your medicines this way and your ward nurse or Specialist Nurse will explain you why in more detail.

Three common reasons are listed below:

- It may be because you have been feeling sick or have been sick, and find it hard to keep your medicines down. Medicines to stop you being sick can be given by the pump at the same time as other medicines to help with symptoms such as pain. Once you have stopped being sick you might be able to go back to swallowing your medicines.
- It may be because you cannot swallow or absorb medicines given by mouth. The pump gives you the medicines you need in a different way and means that you do not need a lot of injections.
- It may be that you have required several injections of medication to manage symptoms and that a Syringe pump would give more continuity with symptom control and reduce the number of injections.

Living with your McKinley Bodyguard T syringe pump

A ward nurse will check regularly to see how you/your family member are. They will check the pump to ensure its working effectively and also check that the skin around the cannula is not red, swollen or sore.

The medications will be replaced every 24 hours. If you go home with the syringe pump, a community nurse will take over the care of the syringe pump when they visit. They will swap to the community syringe pump and return your hospital pump back to the Hospital Medical Devices Library. They work in exactly the same way. A community nurse will put new medicine(s) into the syringe every 24 hours.

Sometimes you may need to take some other medicines even though you have a pump. If you are at home and are able to swallow medicines, make sure you have enough tablets, capsules or liquids to take should you need to take them for pain, sickness or anxiety. Please let the nurse know if you have taken any medicines that are not in your pump when they visit next.

You should:

- keep the pump and the cannula site dry. If you drop the pump into water, you must contact the ward/community nurse as soon as possible, as you will need a new syringe pump.
- not allow the syringe to be exposed to direct sunlight.
- not place the pump near anything hot, such as a heat pad, electric blanket or hot water bottle.

You can go out and about with the pump, as it is small enough to be put into a bag that can be worn over the shoulder.

If you drive, you should ask the nurse if the medicines in the pump will affect your driving.

Try to keep mobile phones that are switched on about an arm's length away, as they may affect the way the pump works.

If any of the following happen you must let the ward/community nurse know as soon as possible:

- The pump gets wet
- The pump is dropped
- The colour of the medicines in the tubing or syringe has changed
- There is cloudiness or there are bits in the tubing or syringe
- The skin around the cannula is red, swollen or sore
- Liquid leaks where the cannula goes into the skin
- The cannula under the skin has fallen out
- Tubing is not connected to the cannula and or syringe
- The alarm sounds.

How will I know that my McKinley Bodyguard T syringe pump is working?

The light above the 'ON/OFF' button flashes green every 64 seconds. If it turns red, there is a problem with the pump and you should contact the nurse as soon as possible. Your ward nurse will manage any issues and the community nurse will discuss with you what to do if the alarm sounds and assess whether a replacement is required.