

McKinley T34 Syringe Driver

contact your nurse if:

- Symptoms persist or change in any way.
- Symptoms are not controlled.
- The colour of the medicine in the tubing or syringe has changed.
- There is a cloudiness or sediment in the tubing or syringe.
- The skin around the needle is red, swollen or painful.
- The alarm on the pump sounds.
- The syringe driver gets wet.

what else do I need to know?

Syringe drivers are quite strong, but they can be damaged if they are dropped or crushed, or if they get wet. Your nurse will discuss with you:

- How you can wash or shower with a syringe driver.
- The best place to keep your syringe driver.
- The best way to sleep whilst you have a syringe driver.
- Which activities may be undertaken and which should be restricted or stopped whilst using your syringe driver. You can get a fabric holder for the driver if you want to remain mobile.

Keep the syringe contents out of direct sunlight, and do not allow them to become too hot. Avoid placing the driver next to a heat pad, hot water bottle or electric blanket, or next to a mobile phone.

contact numbers

Community nurse:

GP:

Specialist nurse:

Out of hours contact:

Large print version available on request.

Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care

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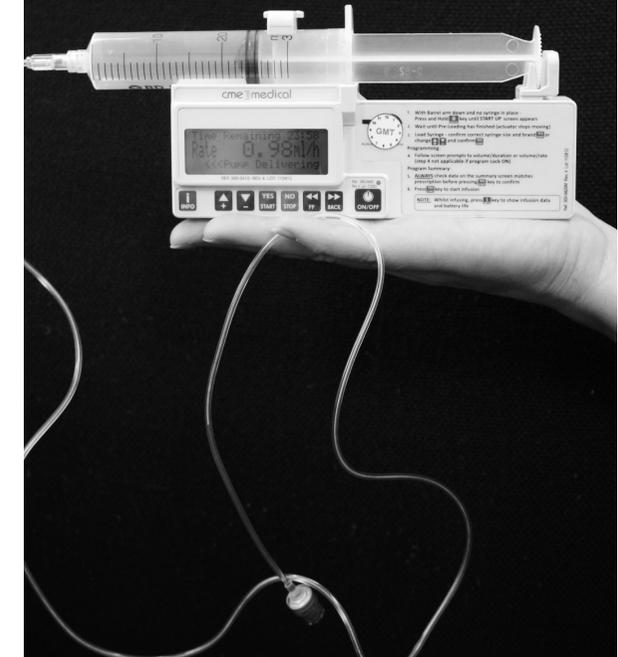
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What is a syringe driver?

A syringe driver is a small portable battery operated pump that gives you your medicines over 24 hours.

The syringe connected to the driver is filled with medicine that has been prescribed by your doctor to help your symptoms. Your medicine will be reviewed on a regular basis and may be changed if necessary.

Once it is in place, you do not need to do anything to the syringe driver. The medicine will be administered automatically over 24 hours.

Why do I need a syringe driver?

Syringe drivers are a simpler and more comfortable way to receive medication, for people who would otherwise need repeated injections. They are used for several reasons, which are listed below (not all of these reasons may apply to you):

- Some people find it difficult to swallow their medicine in tablet or syrup form.
- Some may feel sick or vomit frequently, so cannot keep their tablets in their stomachs long enough for them to work.
- When symptoms are difficult to control by tablets alone, a syringe driver may be used until it is possible to re-start tablets.

Your nurse/doctor will explain to you the rationale for using a syringe driver, and any alternative methods which could be offered for taking medication, and seek your consent.

How will the syringe driver be connected to me?

A long thin tube is connected to the syringe. At the other end of the tube is a tiny needle. Your nurse will insert the needle just under your skin, usually in your upper chest area, abdomen, leg or upper arm. The nurse will put a clear dressing over the needle to keep it clean, dry and in place. Once it is in place you should not feel it and it can stay there for several days.

Who will look after my syringe driver?

Your nurses at home, in the Hospice or at your care home will check your syringe driver to make sure that it is working well, the site is comfortable and there are no problems with the medicines. They will change the syringe every day.

How will I know if the syringe driver is working?

If the syringe driver is working normally, a green light next to the on/off button will flash twice a minute.

For your safety, there are a number of built-in alarms (listed opposite). If one of these alarms is triggered, the light will turn red. Should this happen, please contact your nurse, who will check the driver.

What alarms & alerts might I see or hear?

If an **alarm** is triggered, the light on the syringe driver will turn red. This could happen because of any of the reasons listed below:

End battery: battery needs changing.

Occlusion: cannula or line is kinked or blocked.

Pump paused too long: pump has been stopped for more than two minutes.

End program: the course of medicine is complete.

Syringe displaced: the syringe has become detached from the driver mechanism.

If the alarm is triggered, please call the nursing team.

If the **alert** is triggered you will hear three beeps, every three minutes. The light will stay green, as the syringe driver is still infusing. This could happen because of either of the reasons listed below:

Near end of infusion: nurse should be preparing new medication in syringe, if not there please call them.

Near end of battery: Duracell Procell 9 volt battery needs changing by health care professional.