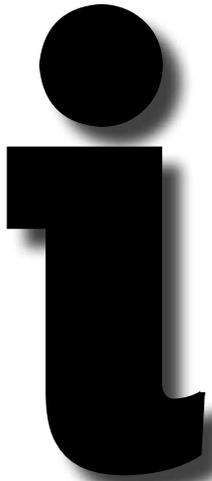


Syringe Driver Information for Patients and Carers



What is a syringe driver?

A syringe driver is a small, portable light-weight battery pump. It is used to dispense medication over a fixed period of time. Using a syringe driver will not restrict activity as the pump can easily be carried around using a small shoulder bag.

How does it give medication?

The medication is prescribed by a doctor and is mixed by the nursing team into a syringe. The syringe is then placed into the driver and this is set to gradually press the syringe plunger. This is pushed through a clear small plastic tube, attached to a fine tube under the skin. This tube can stay in place for several days. It will be checked regularly in case the area becomes red, swollen, sore or uncomfortable. If this happens the tube will be inserted somewhere else.



Why is a syringe driver needed?

There are a number of reasons why a syringe driver could be used. These include:

- if you are feeling sick and are unable to take medicines by mouth, or if you have problems swallowing.
- to help ease symptoms, such as pain, that may not be helped by tablets. By using a syringe driver your doctor can work out the best dose of painkillers to use to give you relief.
- to avoid having lots of injections, because these can be uncomfortable and stressful.
- it is a safe and easy way to give your medicine continuously.

How often is the syringe driver checked?

While you are in hospital we will check your syringe driver on a regular basis, when giving care and at every drug round.

The medication will be reviewed every 24 hours (more frequently if necessary). The syringe driver will be changed by the nursing team.

What happens if symptoms persist or get worse?

The doctor will have prescribed medication that can be administered if required. This can be given by the nursing team.

If symptoms still persist the medical team will review the situation.

If you have any concerns at any time please contact the nurse in charge.

If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customercare@salisbury.nhs.uk

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.