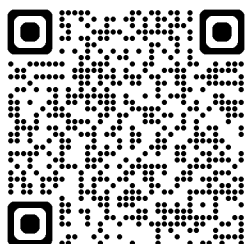


Ambulatory Syringe Pump Leaflet



Information for Patients and Carers



Telephone: 0300 125 6789

Scan the QR code to view our page on the Sirona care and health website.

What is a Syringe Pump?

The syringe pump is a small portable battery-operated pump that pushes a syringe to give your medication slowly over a set period of 24 hours.

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

You do not need to do anything to the syringe pump. The medicine will continue to be absorbed over 24 hours, continuously helping your symptoms.

Why Do I Need a Syringe Pump?

Syringe pumps are used for several reasons. It is a simpler and more comfortable way to receive medication for people who would otherwise need repeated injections. Not all these reasons will apply to you:

Some people find it difficult to swallow their medicine in tablet or syrup form. Others may feel sick or vomit frequently so cannot keep tablets in their stomach long enough for them to work.

When symptoms are difficult to control by tablets alone, a syringe pump may be used until it is possible to re-start tablets

Who Will Look After my Syringe Pump?

Your nurses at home, in hospital or the care home will check your syringe pump regularly to make sure it is working well, the needle is comfortable and there are no problems with the medicines. They will change the syringe each day.

How will the Syringe Pump be Connected to Me?

A long thin tube is connected to the syringe, with a tiny needle at the other end.

Your doctor or nurse will insert the needle, just under the skin – usually in your upper arm or abdomen.

They will put a clear dressing over the needle to keep it clean, dry and in place. Once the needle is in place you should not feel it and it can stay there for several days.

What Do I Need to Look Out For?

How will I know the syringe pump is working? During infusion the syringe brand, the syringe volume and the rate are displayed in order. An ellipse symbol will also rotate.

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During infusion the syringe brand, the syringe volume and the rate are displayed in order. An ellipse symbol will also rotate.

Contact your community healthcare team if you notice any of the following:

- The colour of the medicines 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
- Please do not attempt to remove the syringe or press any of the buttons on the pump.

What Else Do I Need to Look Out For?

Syringe pumps are quite strong, but they can be damaged by dropping or being crushed. A syringe pump must not get wet. Ask your nurse for advice about washing or showering.

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

Ask your nurse for advice on the best place to keep your syringe pump. You can get a fabric holder if you want to be more mobile.

Common Alerts or Alarms and What to Do

Low/end battery: One beep every minute when there is approximately 24 hours battery life left along with a battery symbol.

Occlusion: The pump will beep intermittently and display 'OCC' if there is an occlusion.

Pump paused too long: The pump will beep intermittently and display 'hr'.

Program completed: The pump will beep intermittently and display 'End'.

Syringe displaced: The pump will beep intermittently and display 'Sr G'.

For all these alarms, please contact the community healthcare team.

What Should I Do When I No Longer Need the Pump?

Please contact your community nurse who will ensure it is returned.

Useful contact details

Out of hours community nursing: 0300 125 6789

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We can help with larger print, audio (a message to listen to), Easy read, British Sign Language or this information in another language. Please contact this service.



You can phone us on 0300 125 6789 or email us

sirona.accessiblecomms@nhs.net

Please scan the QR code to listen to an audio version of this statement.

Date of creation: 05/2026 Date for review: 05/2028 URN: 0038

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