



About your syringe driver

A syringe driver/pump is a small portable machine that is able to give you medication continuously (usually over 24 hours).

It is given through a small needle just underneath the skin.

We may use a syringe driver if:

- you are finding it difficult to swallow tablets
- you are vomiting or feeling sick
- you are sleeping most of the time
- your body is not absorbing oral medication for any reason
- we need to adjust medication quickly to get symptoms controlled as soon as possible.



What are the advantages of a syringe driver?

- to help improve your symptoms by giving medicines at a constant rate
- several medicines can be used at the same time in the syringe driver, for example something for pain and something for sickness
- reduces the amount of tablets you need to take and injections needed
- it is a portable machine which can be used at any time during your illness.

Will I be aware of it?

The syringe driver is fairly small, portable and makes very little noise whilst it is running. It can be placed in a little bag to make it easier to carry around.

The pump in the syringe driver will be changed once a day by your nurses. The syringe driver has an alarm which will sound when the medication is about to finish or if there is a problem with it. The nurses will check the pump and the site where the needle is regularly and will be able to fix any problems.

Can I go home with it?

A syringe driver can be used at home, the district nurses will look after it and your GP will prescribe the medication required.

If you have any problems with your syringe driver at home please contact the district nursing team.

Some Do's and Don'ts

Do:

- tell your nurse if your skin is red or sore where the needle is placed
- tell your nurse if the needle comes out, or if the alarm is sounding
- tell your nurse if you have accidentally dropped the syringe driver
- keep your medication in a safe place (if you are at home)
- ask your nurse if you have concerns about your syringe driver.

Don't:

- don't get the pump wet. Do not take a bath or shower whilst connected to the pump (can be disconnected if you wish to take bath or shower please talk with your nurse about this)
- don't share your medication with anyone else.

Contact numbers:

Doncaster:

Single Point of Access, Tel: 01302 566999

Community Specialist Palliative Care Team, Tel: 01302 566666

Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team, Tel: 01302 644093.

Bassetlaw:

Single Point of Access, Tel: 01777 274422

Palliative care team, Tel: 01909 572981.

Patient Experience Team

The team are available to help with any concerns/complaints you may have about your experience at the Trust. Their office is in the Main Foyer (Gate 4) of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Contact can be made either in person, by telephone or email.

The contact details are:

Telephone: 01302 642764 or 0800 028 8059. Email: dbth.pals.dbh@nhs.net

Specialist Palliative Care Team
