

Warning lights and Alarms

A small green LED light will flash every few seconds to indicate that the syringe driver is working.

If there is a problem with the syringe driver an alarm will sound, and the LED light will turn red. If this happens let the nursing team know as soon as you can.

The alarm will also sound fifteen minutes before the medication will run out.

If the syringe driver stops, try not to worry, the medication can continue to work in your body for several hours. Let the nursing team know as soon as you can.

Taking care with your syringe driver

Syringe drivers are safe and reliable.

However, it is helpful if you can:

- Check the tube is not accidentally kinked or blocked. This can block the medication flow and will cause the alarm to sound.
- Look out for changes on your skin where the tube goes in. For example, irritation, discomfort, or changes in colour.
- Keep the syringe driver and your skin around the tube clean and dry.
- Try not to pull the tube.
- Do not press any of the buttons or access the battery

If any of these things happen, contact the nursing team as soon as you can, they will help you.

If you have any questions or need help, please speak to your nursing team as soon as you can.

It's important to us that you have the information you need to feel comfortable with your care.

You might find it helpful to write down any questions you have.

HOW TO CONTACT US

In your own home or care home:

Single Point of Contact:

Tel: 01653 609609 (24 hours a day)

If you are in hospital:

Malton Hospital, Fitzwilliam Ward:

Tel: 01653 531632

Whitby Hospital, Memorial Ward:

Tel: 01947 899261

If you are in a Nursing Home, please speak to the nursing staff in the home.

The Complaints and Feedback Team

 01482 303930

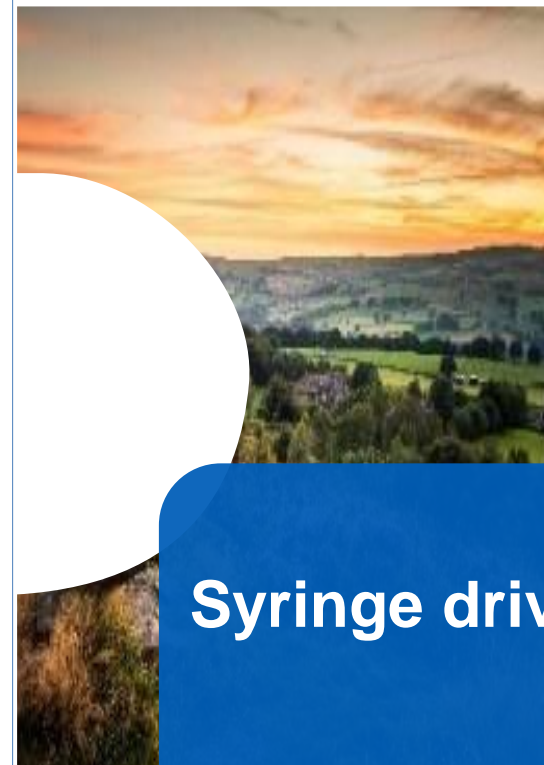
 Hnf-ft.complaints@nhs.net

You can also write to:

Complaints and Feedback Team

Willerby Hill, Beverley Road

Willerby, HU10 6ED



Syringe drivers

Information for Patients,
relatives, and carers



What is a syringe driver?

A syringe driver is a small, battery-powered pump that delivers medication at a constant rate throughout the day and night.

The syringe driver pushes medications from a syringe through a small plastic tube into the body. The tube is inserted just under the skin using a very thin needle. The needle is removed once the tube is in place. The tube is commonly inserted in the arm, leg or tummy.

Why are syringe drivers used?

There are several reasons why a syringe driver might be used. For example:

- You find it difficult to swallow tablets or liquids
- You feel sick or are vomiting
- Your body cannot absorb medicines taken by mouth.

Benefits of having a syringe driver:

- It will maintain a constant level of medication in your body.
- It may reduce the need for you to have repeat injections.
- You can remain as mobile and active as you are able.
- Medications are more easily absorbed

Syringe drivers can be used at different stages of an illness.

Sometimes syringe drivers are used when a person is naturally nearing their end of life. Some people worry that having a syringe driver can speed up dying. There is no evidence for this. Syringe drivers are only used to treat your symptoms and support comfort.

If you have any questions or need help, please speak to your nursing team as soon as you can.

All contact details are on the back of this leaflet

Medicines and syringe drivers

Starting a syringe driver does not mean your current medication is not strong enough or not working; it is simply an effective way for you to receive medicines now.

Medications can be used to manage different symptoms, including:

- pain
- sickness and vomiting
- breathless
- agitation

More than one medication can be used to manage different symptoms at the same time.

Let the nursing team know if you feel your symptoms are less well controlled. They may give you extra injections of medications, sometimes called 'breakthrough' medication.

The medications and doses can be adjusted to get these right for you, including if your symptoms change. This will be discussed with your Doctor or independent prescriber.

If you have a **medication patch**, you will **need to continue this** unless you are advised otherwise by your doctor. Don't forget to keep changing this patch as instructed.

Setting up a syringe driver

Your syringe driver will be set up by a nurse. They will take time to explain the syringe driver and answer any questions you have.

It can take several hours for medicines to reach a steady level in your body. You might not feel an effect straight away. You may need extra 'breakthrough' medication injections during this time. This is normal.

The nursing team will renew the medication and reset the syringe driver every 24 hours or earlier if needed. The tube can stay in place for up to a week.

The nurse will lock the syringe driver in a plastic box to protect it. They can supply a bag for you to carry it with you if you might be moving around.

A nurse will check that your syringe driver is delivering the medication correctly and safely. This will happen every 24 hours if you are in your own home and more often in hospital.

