

## Information about your Syringe Driver and Locked box

### What is a syringe driver?

A syringe driver is a small, portable, battery-operated pump. It allows medicines to be given steadily under the skin over 24 hours. **IT SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO GET WET.**

Your syringe driver consists of:

- A battery-operated pump.
- A syringe full of medication diluted with water or saline connected to thin plastic tubing.
- A small needle (cannula) attached to the end of the tubing. This will be inserted under the skin.
- A clear dressing to hold the cannula in place. This needs to be kept clean and dry.
- A clear box to keep the syringe driver safe. This is locked.
- A bag to keep your pump safe and allow you to move around.

Your syringe driver and locked box will look like this:

### Why do I need a syringe driver?

A syringe driver is used to give medications in a simple way to help control any symptoms you may be suffering with

For example, if you:

- are feeling or being sick.
- have difficulties swallowing.
- may be too weak or ill to take medicines by mouth.
- you may not absorb medication so well by mouth
- your clinician feels it is the most appropriate route for medication delivery.

The benefits are:

- It will help to maintain a constant amount of drugs in your bloodstream. It will mean that you do not have to keep having injections.
- Having a syringe driver should not stop you from moving about if able or get in your way if you are in bed.
- Medications are better absorbed and so more effective at controlling symptoms.

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**Where the small plastic tube can be inserted under the skin, shown in the picture below**

## **Please inform your nurse if:**

- The site where the cannula (needle) has been inserted is red, swollen or painful. Having a syringe driver should be painless
- The light on the pump is not flashing or the pump is not working (a whirring sound should be heard every few minutes).
- It does not help to improve your symptoms, e.g., you still have pain or feel sick.
- The plastic cannula falls out.
- The pump gets wet as it is not water or shower-proof. If you wish to shower or bath with your pump, then please discuss this with your nurse
  
- If you drop your syringe driver. Using the carry bag provided can help keep your syringe driver safe from falling.
- If you have any concerns or worries about having a syringe driver, please discuss these with your Nurse or Doctor
  
- If the alarm goes off

## **Further information:**

If you are discharged with a Syringe Driver, your Community Nurse will visit you daily to change the syringe and check your Syringe Driver.

If you are worried, need further information or have any questions about your syringe driver, please contact either your doctor or Nurse.

Doctor (GP).....

Tel.....

Community Nurse.....

Tel.....

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR SYRINGE DRIVER TO THE NORFOLK & NORWICH UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE EITHER TO THE HOSPITAL DIRECTLY OR VIA YOUR GP**

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**SURGERY. Please use the envelope provided. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP**