

We gratefully
acknowledge Hospice
South Canterbury for
their contribution to
this pamphlet



Syringe driver Patient Information

This picture shows
the Niki T34 Syringe
driver



Contact Us

McKenzie HealthCare Ltd

2 McKenzie Street

Geraldine, 7930

03 693 8299

gm@mhc.org.nz

www.mhc.org.nz

A Syringe driver is a battery-operated device that holds a syringe and administers medication through a small cannula under the skin. It is commonly used in Palliative care.

Why is the syringe driver needed?

Sometimes it is not possible to take pills and medicine by mouth, or the medicine isn't being absorbed in the digestive system. Symptoms such as pain, nausea and agitation still need to be managed. The syringe driver is a simple and effective way to control these symptoms.

The Doctor and Nurse will have explained why certain medication will help. The syringe driver provides a continuous delivery of Medication and allows several medications to be administered together in the syringe. The syringe usually requires refilling only once a day. Patient comfort is ensured because frequent injections are avoided.

Sometimes the syringe driver is used for a short time then medications can be taken by mouth again. This will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Doctor and Nurses.

Who looks after the syringe driver?

The Doctors and Nurses. The Doctor prescribes the medication for the syringe driver. The Nurse inserts the cannula under the skin and starts the pump.

The Nurse manages the syringe driver by checking it regularly and will look to see that it is working. The Nurse will renew the syringe every day. The tubing and cannula are changed when necessary.

The Nurse will ask how you are feeling, checking your physical symptoms are being controlled; that means the medication is effective for your requirements.

Points to remember.

The following points are for you and your family.

- The syringe driver is reliable
- The design incorporates a lockable syringe cover. This provides protection against accidental syringe displacement
- When the pump is operating an LED light on the face plate continues to flash green.
- The syringe driver uses alkaline 9V batteries. Your Nurse will change these when needed.
- The alarm will sound if the syringe driver is removed, displaced, is empty or if the tube is blocked or kinked. The nurse will check and provide the action needed to rectify the problem.

DO:

- Tell the Nurse if your skin becomes sore or red where the cannula is placed.
- Contact the Nurse if the cannula comes out, the alarm is sounding, or you have any concerns about the pump or medication.

DON'T

- Bath whilst wearing the syringe driver. The Nurse will give you instructions on how to do this.
- Immerse the syringe driver in the water. If this should happen contact the Nurse.
- Drop the syringe driver, strike it against hard objects or otherwise subject it to extreme physical stress. This could damage the pump, which may impair the operation of the pump and/or the accuracy of the infusion. If the pump is dropped, contact the Nurse.

***Your comfort is important to us,
and we want to help you
understand what is happening to
you.***

***Please ask if you have any
questions.***