

# Administering subcutaneous (under the skin) medication bolus

## Carer Information

## Community Health Nursing Service

### Guidance for Carers

Additional medicine may be needed to keep a person comfortable.

This medicine is given through a cannula (small needle) that has been placed just under the skin. The cannula will be secured with a clear dressing. This lets you check the area around the cannula for any redness, leakage or swelling.

The nurse will draw up syringes of medicine and normal saline. You can also be taught how to draw up the syringes by the nurse.

The syringe that contains the medicine will have a red medication label on it showing the name of the medicine in the syringe.

The syringe that contains the normal saline will not have a label. Normal saline is given after the medicine to flush the medicine through the cannula.

### Equipment

- Syringe with red medication added label.
- Syringe (unlabelled) containing saline.
- Injection wipes

### Method of Administration

1. Wash your hands
2. Wipe the cannula with the injection wipe to clean it. Allow the cannula to dry.
3. Remove the cover from the syringe.
4. Twist the syringe containing medicine (the one with the red label) onto the cannula and slowly push the medicine in. Untwist the syringe once the medicine has been given.
5. Give the syringe containing the normal saline in the same way.

6. Throw away the syringes directly into the rubbish
7. Write the time that the medicine was given on the "Medication Administration Record" form in the medication folder.

If you feel that the medicine has not helped the person's discomfort please contact the District Nurse.

### Your notes

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### District Nurse Contact:

Monday to Sunday between 8am and 10pm

Kapiti: (04) 903 0224

Kenepuru: (04) 918 2011

Wellington: (04) 806 2556

#### After hours

Monday to Sunday between 10pm and 8am

Contact Mary Potter Hospice

Phone: (04) 801 0006