

Using a NIKI T34 Syringe Driver in the community

What is a syringe driver?

A syringe driver (sometimes known as a 'subcut pump') is a small battery powered syringe pump designed to be carried in a small pouch. It holds a syringe containing medication which it delivers over a set time, usually 24 hours.



How is it managed?

The nurse inserts a tiny cannula (needle), just under the patient's skin, usually into the upper chest, upper arm, or upper thigh. It is secured in place by adhesive covering.

The cannula is attached to fine tubing, which is then attached to a syringe containing medication.

The syringe is secured to a battery operated syringe driver, which can be worn around the patient's neck, or lie on the bed beside the patient.

Before a syringe driver is used, the visiting nurse or Palliative Care Coordinator will explain everything you need to know about the driver, and show you how it works.

The NIKI T34 Syringe Driver

1. The LED light on the keypad will flash green – one flash every 30 seconds



2. The display screen will show the infusion details



The images shown above are examples only, the numbers on your display may be different.

If the syringe driver alarms

There are 2 types of alarm, intermittent and continuous:

- **Intermittent:** the infusion will continue and the screen will read either 'near end' or 'low battery.'
- **Continuous:** the infusion will stop and the display will read occlusion, syringe displaced, pump paused too long, end of infusion, syringe empty or end battery.

Read the message on the display of the pump. If the alarm is continuous press YES to silence the alarm, then complete the following:

[continued]

- **Occlusion:** check the line is not kinked. Press **YES** to restart the infusion. If the alarm repeats, press **STOP**, turn **OFF** the driver and call your nurse or Mary Potter Hospice.
- **Syringe displaced:** syringe not fitted correctly or displaced. The screen message shows what to check – advise your nurse or Mary Potter Hospice.
- **Pump paused too long:** press **YES** to restart.
- **End of infusion:** press **STOP**, then hold down **OFF**.
- **Syringe empty:** this indicates the end of the infusion.
- **End battery:** change the battery and restart the infusion.

Changing the battery

The driver requires a high quality 9V alkaline non-rechargeable battery.

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The battery is located behind the slide panel on the back of the driver.

To change battery following a low battery alert showing on screen:

- press **STOP**
- press and hold **OFF** button until screen turns off, remove old battery and replace with new battery
- press and hold **ON** button until the light on the display comes on
- wait until the picture of the syringe on the display disappears
- press **YES** to confirm syringe brand and size
- press **YES** to resume infusion - ***If NO is pressed in error PLEASE contact your nurse as the driver will need reprogramming.***
- press **YES** to confirm remaining volume, duration and rate of infusion

- press **YES** to start the infusion.

Showering / bathing

Do not immerse the syringe driver in water, or wear it while showering or bathing

What do I need?

- blue plug (supplied)
- clean gauze

Before showering / bathing:

Please note: the syringe driver must be disconnected away from the bathroom area due to potential risk of moisture damage.

- wash hands
- disconnect line from the syringe and cap the end with the blue plug supplied
- do not turn the pump off
- do not remove the syringe from the driver
- it is advisable to place the syringe driver onto a gauze to catch any drops

After showering / bathing:

Reconnect line to the syringe and discard the used plug.

Contact us

If you require assistance with your syringe driver at home, please call your District Nurse or Mary Potter Hospice (at any time, day or night):

Wellington District Nurse: (04) 806 2556

Kapiti District Nurse: (04) 903 0224

Kenepuru District Nurse: (04) 918 2011

Mary Potter Hospice: (04) 801 0006

Feedback about our service is welcome.

Please do not hesitate to contact us.