



St Margaret's
Hospice Care

Using a McKinley T34 Syringe Pump Information for patients and carers



What is a McKinley T34 syringe pump?

This is a small battery operated pump with a syringe that has your medicines in it. The medicines are given through a needle which is put into the fatty layer under the skin, and are then absorbed into your body. The pump will deliver your medicine slowly over 24 hours. The pump can be used to give you one, two, or three medicines.

Why do I need a McKinley T34 syringe pump?

Using a pump does not mean that your medicines have stopped working or are not strong enough. It's just that sometimes it is better for you to be given your medicines this way and your nurse will tell you why in more detail. Two common reasons for this are:

- It may be because you have been feeling sick or have been sick, and are finding it hard to keep your medicines down. Medicines to stop you being sick can be given by the pump at the same time as other medicines to help with things such as pain. Once you have stopped being sick you might be able to go back to swallowing medicines.
- It may be because you cannot swallow or absorb medicines given by mouth. The pump gives you the medicines you need in a different way, and means that you do not need a lot of injections.

Living with your McKinley T34 syringe pump

A nurse will check regularly to see how you are. He or she will check the pump and also check that the skin around the site is not red, swollen or sore. If you are at home the nurse will do the checks when they visit. You or the person who looks after you may be asked if either of you would like to do the checks. The nurse will tell you exactly what to do.

A nurse will put new medicine(s) into the syringe every 24 hours.

Sometimes you may need to take some other medicines even though you have a pump. If you are at home and are able to swallow medicines, make sure you have enough tablets, capsules, or liquids to take should you need to take them for pain, sickness, anxiety or other reasons. Let the nurse know if you have to take any medicines that are not in your pump.

Do's and Don'ts

You **should** keep the pump and the site dry. If you drop the pump into water, you must contact the nurse as soon as possible, as you will need a new syringe pump.

You **should not** let the syringe be exposed to direct sunlight.

You **should not** put the pump near anything hot, like a heat pad, electric blanket, or hot water bottle.

You **can** go out and about with the pump, as it is small enough to be put into a pouch that can be worn as a shoulder bag.

If you drive you **should** ask the nurse if the medicines in the pump will affect your driving.

Do keep mobile phones that are switched on about an arm's length away, as they may affect the way the pump works.

How do I know that my McKinley T34 syringe pump is working?

The light above the 'ON/OFF' button flashes green every 64 seconds.

If it turns red, there is a problem with the pump and you should contact the nurse as soon as possible.

Your nurse will discuss with you what to do if the alarm sounds.

You MUST let a nurse know as soon as possible if:

- Pump gets wet
- Pump is dropped
- Colour of the medicines in the tubing or syringe has changed
- Cloudiness or bits in the tube or syringe
- Skin around the site is red, swollen, or sore
- Liquid leaks where the needle goes into the skin
- Needle has fallen out
- Tubing is not connected to the needle
- Alarm sounds

If you are in any doubt contact our advice line on 0845 070 8910.

Feedback - we welcome your compliments and complaints

We are keen to develop and improve our services and welcome positive and negative feedback, including any concerns you may have. You can:

- Speak to any member of the team either in person or over the phone by calling our 24-hour adviceline on **01823 333822** or **01935 709480**
- Email us at **feedback@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk** or through our website
- Formal complaints should be addressed to the Chief Executive

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