Information about your syringe pump

McKinley T34 Syringe Driver
Patient Information Leaflet
**What is a McKinley T34 syringe pump?**
This is a small, portable pump which is battery operated. It allows medicines to be given continuously under the skin over a 24 hour period.

**Why do I need one?**
The syringe pump is an alternative way of delivering medicines to control your symptoms. This may be for pain, controlling sickness or for medicines to help you relax. It may be needed if:
- you are having difficulty swallowing medicines
- you are being sick
- your symptoms need more control
The reason will be explained to you by your nurse. A syringe pump may be used at any stage of your illness and may be discontinued if it is no longer needed.

**How does it work?**
The nurse will insert a small needle or plastic tube under your skin. This will be connected by a thin tube to a syringe containing your medicine which is attached to the syringe pump.

The syringe pump gradually pushes in the syringe plunger to deliver the medicines over 24 hours. A nurse will renew the syringe every 24 hours.

The needle/plastic tube will be taped in place and usually only needs changing every few days.
How do I know if the syringe pump is working properly?
The nurse providing your syringe pump will have checked it is working before setting it up.

A small light above the ‘ON/OFF’ button will flash green regularly. If it turns red, there is a problem with the pump and you should contact the nurse/out of hours Doctor as soon as possible.

Who will look after it?
Your nurse will regularly check that the pump is operating correctly, that you are receiving the medication prescribed and that the needle/tube site is comfortable. They will also show you some simple checks to make sure things are working properly.

What do I do if the pump beeps or an alarm sounds?
If the syringe pump beeps or an alarm sounds the most important thing is not to worry. You do not need to do anything apart from informing your nurse/out of hours Doctor as soon as possible and they will be able to advise on what to do.

Please do not try to do anything yourself without speaking to your nurse/out of hours Doctor.
Some Do’s:
• If you are walking around, you may find it helpful to carry the syringe pump in a small bag or pouch.
• When you are in bed or resting in a chair, the syringe pump can be put on a flat surface next to you, but do not place it at a higher level than the needle/tube site.
• Try to keep mobile phones that are switched on about an arm’s length away, as they may affect the way the pump works.
• If you want a bath or shower – your nurse will give you advice on what to do.

Some Don’ts:
• Do not interfere with the line or pump.
• Do not pick up or hold the syringe pump using the syringe.
• Do not press the buttons on the pump control panel.
• Do not get the syringe pump wet.
• Do not drop the syringe pump.
• Do not expose the syringe pump to heat or bright sunlight.

In event of any of these happening, please contact your nurse/out of hours Doctor.

Contact your nurse/out of hours Doctor if:
• You are worried that the syringe pump is not working properly or has been damaged.
• The colour of the medicines has changed or become cloudy.
• The skin around the needle/tube is red, swollen or painful.
• The alarm sounds.
• You have other concerns.