

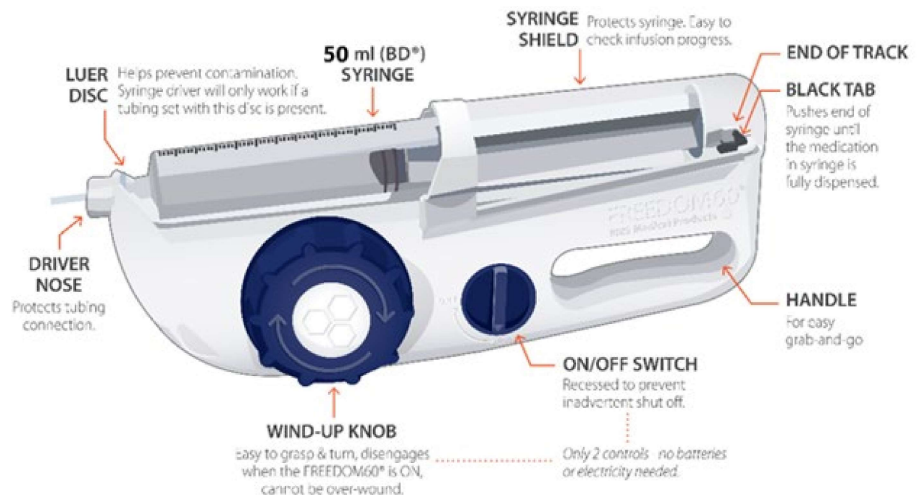
Using a Syringe Pump for Subcutaneous Medication Administration

Introduction

A **syringe pump** is a mechanical or electronic device that uses a piston or cylinder to push the plunger of a syringe filled with medication.

The syringe is filled with medication by our pharmacist, or you will be instructed by your home care nurse on how to withdraw this medication from a vial/container. To administer the medication you place the syringe inside the pump, close the door, and turn the pump on.

Follow these basic directions to use your pump correctly. You will receive additional detailed instructions from your nurse. This teaching sheet is intended to provide “reminders”, and should be used in addition to detailed written and verbal instructions.



Basic Guidelines

- Your medication syringes will be delivered on a regular basis. Some medications require refrigeration, while others may be kept at room temperature. Your nurse will provide education on how to properly store your medication. Keep a clean, dedicated area or drawer in your refrigerator for storage of the medication.
- If your medication is refrigerated, remove your next dose of medication syringe from the refrigerator, several hours before you need to infuse it, or as directed by your nurse or pharmacist. If the dose is cold, it is still okay to infuse, but may take longer than the expected time. DO NOT microwave or immerse the syringe in hot water to warm it.
- In most cases, once you remove the syringe from the refrigerator and allow it to warm, it must be used within 24 hours. Refer to the medication label or consult with your pharmacist for directions.

- The amount of medication in the syringe, the type of attached tubing, and the specifications of the pump will determine how long it will take to finish the dose of medication. Your nurse or pharmacist will tell you how long your infusion should take. Let them know if the pump infuses too slowly or too quickly.
- Some syringe pumps used in the home run on battery power. Always have a spare "backup" set of batteries if applicable. The pharmacy will supply the correct type of batteries required for your pump.
- There are several different models of syringe pumps. Power buttons, alarms, and other features will vary. Our pharmacy might give you additional written information on your specific type of pump.

Supplies

- Syringe pump
- Extension tubing (attaches to the tip of the syringe)
- Antiseptic wipes (chlorhexidine preferred)
- Subcutaneous needle or subcutaneous infusion set
- Gloves (non-sterile)
- Syringe
- Transparent semipermeable dressing (TSM)
- Tape

Steps

1. Check medication container for leaks, cracks, particle matter, and clarity of medication.
2. Perform hand hygiene as taught by your home care nurse.
3. Gather supplies.
4. Apply gloves.
5. Choose insertion site as taught by your home care nurse:
 - a. The area selected should have enough tissue and skin to place the needle
 - b. Level of patient mobility and comfort
 - c. Sites may include upper arm, upper chest wall, abdomen (2 inches from belly button), upper back and thighs.
 - d. Avoid areas that are scarred, inflamed or infected.
 - e. Sites should be two (2) inches apart.
 - f. If skin is visibly soiled, wash with soap and water.

6. Remove excess hair with clippers if necessary.
7. Apply antiseptic solution and allow it to dry completely:
 - a. Chlorhexidine: apply using a back and forth motion for 30 seconds.
 - b. Povidone-iodine: apply using an applicator and allow to remain on the skin two (2) minutes or longer to dry completely.
8. Grab skin between thumb and forefinger, and insert needle as taught by your home care nurse.
9. Attach a syringe to needle tubing.
10. Draw back plunger on syringe to assess for absence of blood return. If blood is seen, **STOP!** Remove needle and discard. Replace with new needle following the above steps.
11. Attach medication tubing and infuse fluids or medications as taught by your home care nurse.
12. Cover each needle insertion site with a transparent (TSM) dressing. Label with date and time of insertion, and initials of the person who inserted the needle.
13. Discard used supplies in the appropriate receptacles.
14. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

Notes and Instructions

Your infusion information is as follows:

Once syringes or medicine tubing caps have been removed, be sure nothing touches the tips of these devices before they are inserted into your IV needleless connector.

Check your temperature daily, report if 100.4° or more.

Important Contact Numbers:

Home Care Nurse: _____

Home Infusion Pharmacy: Vital Care of Tampa - 813-632-8545