

# Mckinley T34/T Syringe pump

A guide for patients and significant others



because  
you matter

**St Nicholas  
Hospice Care**

A Registered Charity No. 287773

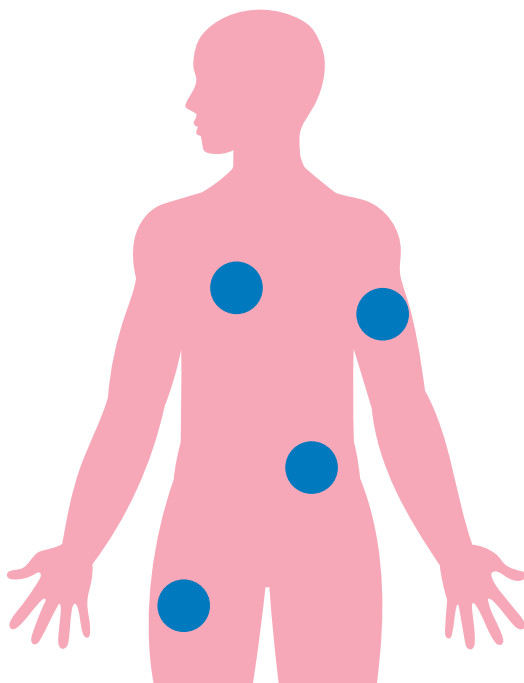
**For an alternative format or  
language, please contact;**  
enquiries@stnh.org.uk

## This leaflet aims to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about syringe pumps.

The syringe pump is a small portable battery-operated pump that gives medicines over 24 hours. You may still be able to take oral medication too.

The syringe pump has a lockable clear plastic box. Attached to the pump will be a syringe containing your medication. This will be connected to a thin tube with a thin plastic needle at the end.

The plastic needle will be inserted just under your skin, either on your chest, stomach, or top of your arm or leg, with a clear plastic dressing over it to keep it dry and clean. The needle can be in place for several days.



## Why do I need a syringe pump?

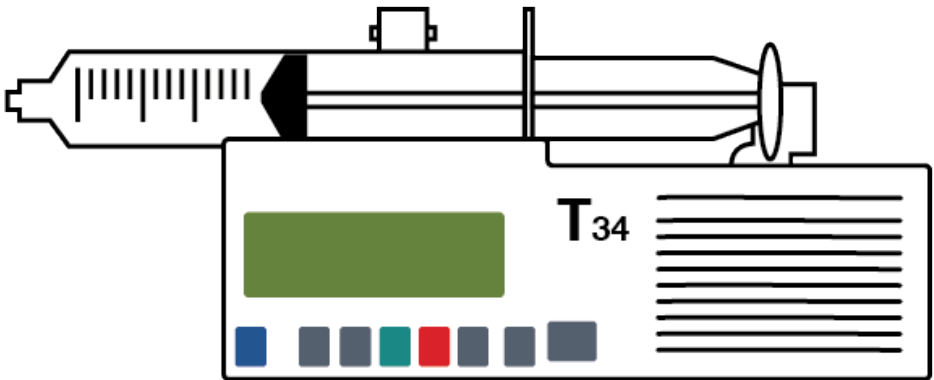
Sometimes it is easier for you to have some of your medicines this way; possibly because –

- You have been vomiting and find it difficult to keep medicines down.
- You may have difficulty swallowing medicines in tablet or liquid form.
- You may have so many medicines to take that you find it difficult to manage them all. Putting some in a syringe pump will reduce the amount you must take by mouth.



## Advantages of using a syringe pump

The syringe pump enables you to continue receiving essential medication such as pain killers and/or anti-sickness preparations. The syringe pump can also be used as a temporary method of receiving treatment to control symptoms before you return to feeling well enough to take oral medicines again.

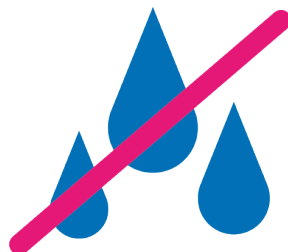


## Useful information

The medication will go into your bloodstream over 24 hours, and the doctors will decide the dose and type of medicine; if you are still experiencing symptoms, please let your nurse know so they can review.



Please keep the syringe pump and needle site dry. This is to ensure the plastic tube stays in place. You may need to pay more attention when washing to ensure the line or pump does not get wet. If this does happen, then please call the nurse to assess.



Please do not interfere with the syringe pump – the case should be locked for your safety, so the mechanism is not knocked.

Please do not expose the syringe pump to direct sunlight. This protects the medications inside. If going outside, a shoulder bag can be provided.



The syringe pump should not be exposed to extremes of heat (hot water bottle, electric blanket, heat pad), as this can affect the medications inside; however, under a bed sheet is fine.

## How will I know if the syringe pump is working?

The pump doesn't make a noise whilst working. However, a green light next to the on/off button will flash twice a minute; it uses a 9V battery that lasts approximately two days.

There are a number of built-in alarms, and the green flashing light will become red. Please contact your nurse. The syringe pump's alarm will also sound when the battery is coming to the end of its life and when the contents of the syringe have ended.

### Please contact your nurse if:

- The needle site is red, hot or sore (you may have an infection at the site, or the medication is not being absorbed as it should be).
- The pump is beeping (this could mean either the battery is low or the contents need replacing).
- The colour of the medicines in the syringe or tubing has changed or become cloudy (a nurse needs to review so they can ensure that the contents are stable).

## Who will look after my syringe pump?

If you are staying at the Hospice on the Sylvan Ward, the nurses there will look after the pump, and the ward doctors will check daily if the syringe pump has the correct medication and doses.

At home, the district nurses will look after the pump, and your GP will decide the doses and types of medicines.

## If you are unsure or have questions speak with :

- Sylvan ward nurses
- St Nicholas Hospice Care's Community Nursing Team 01284 766133
- District Nurses, Central Coordination Centre (CCC) 0300 123 2425.



# Hospice **Advice line**

Call our 24/7 advice line for health care professionals and families if you need support with symptom management and end of life care.

**enquiries@stnh.org.uk**  
**www.stnicholashospice.org.uk**

**01284 766133**

## Your Experience **Survey**

We want to develop our services in response to feedback; please consider filling out our survey which is available online or can be requested in paper form.

**www.stnicholashospice.org.uk**  
**/your-experience-survey**

*because  
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