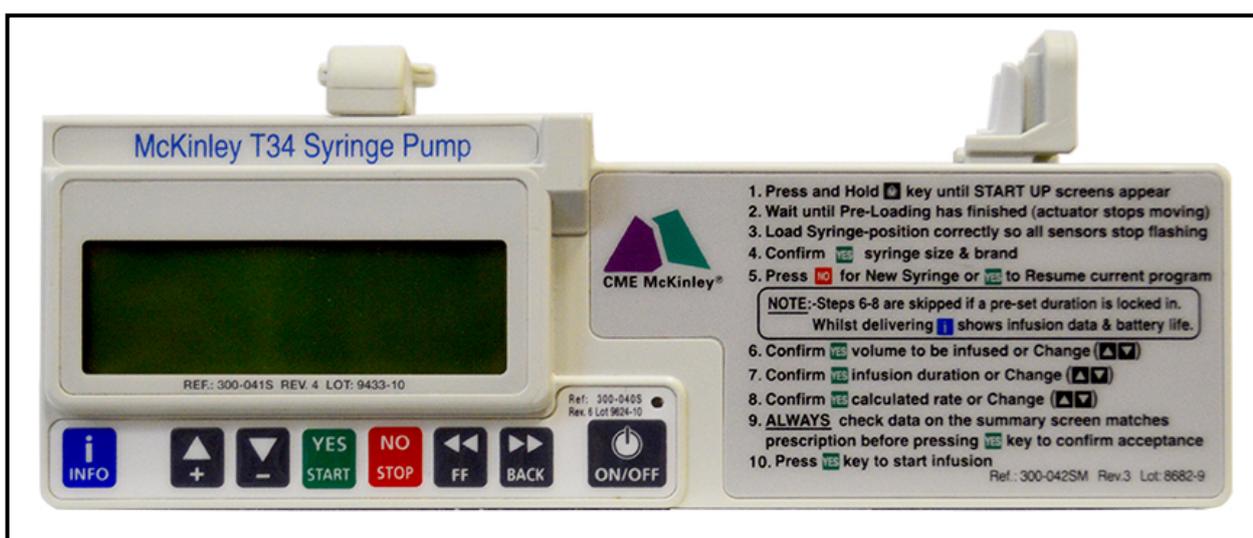


The McKinley T34 syringe pump

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.



What is a McKinley T34 syringe pump?

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

Why do I need a McKinley T34 syringe pump?

It is sometimes easier for you to take medicines this way. Your nurse will tell you why in more detail.

Using a pump does not mean that your medicines have stopped working or are not strong enough.

Two common reasons:

- It may be because you have been feeling sick or have been sick and find 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 symptoms such as pain. Once you have stopped being sick you might be able to go back to swallowing your 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. They will check the pump and also check that the skin around the cannula is not red, swollen or sore.

If you are at home, the nurse will check the pump and skin during their usual visit. We may ask you or the person who looks after you if 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 able to swallow medicines, make sure you have enough tablets, capsules or liquids to take should you need them for pain, sickness or anxiety. Please let your nurse know if you have taken any medicines that are not in your pump when he/she next visits.

- You should keep the pump and the cannula 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 allow the syringe to be exposed to direct sunlight. You can sit in the sun; just pop it in the shade.
- You should not place the pump near anything hot such as 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 bag that can be worn over the shoulder.
- If you drive, you should ask the nurse if the medicines in the pump will affect your driving.
- Try to keep mobile phones that are switched on about an arm's length away as they may affect the way the pump works.

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

The light above the 'ON/OFF' button will flash green every 60 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.

If any of the following happen, you must let the nurse know as soon as possible:

- The pump gets wet
- The pump is dropped
- The colour of the medicines in the tubing or syringe has changed
- There is cloudiness or there are bits/precipitation in the tubing or syringe

- The skin around the cannula is red, swollen or sore
- Liquid leaks where the cannula goes into the skin
- The cannula under the skin has fallen out
- Tubing is not connected to the cannula and/or syringe
- The alarm sounds

If you are at home, phone the community nurse or the out-of-hours service as soon as possible. Please see below for contact details.

Useful contact details

Community Nursing Team:

Out-of-hours Service:

GP:

Other:

References

With acknowledgement to Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust for the publication and contents of this document.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern, call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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