



## What is the infusion pump?

Liquid medicine is placed into a syringe, which is then fitted into a small portable battery controlled infusion pump.

Tubing runs from the syringe to a plastic needle just under your skin. The pump pushes the medicine under your skin and it gets absorbed by the body.

The pump is placed in a see through locked box to keep the medicine safe and usually runs at a steady rate for 24 hours.

When the syringe is empty a new syringe is started.

This type of infusion is used throughout Western Australia, and can be looked after easily in many places.

## Why has my doctor recommended using the infusion pump?

Sometimes it is more effective to have some of your medicines this way:

- You may not be able to swallow your medicine or your body may not be able to absorb the medicine properly.
- You may feel sick in the stomach or be vomiting.
- An infusion may be a faster way to treat how you are feeling.
- More than one medicine may be mixed in the syringe to help with different symptoms. Your doctor and/or nurse will explain the reason for each medicine.

## Day to day care

- Keep the pump dry especially when washing or showering. If it is dropped or gets wet contact your nurse immediately to get a new pump (this is to make sure that your medicine keeps delivering correctly).
- The pump should not be directly in the sun – you should keep it protected in the bag provided. The bag can be washed by hand if necessary, or ask for another one.
- The pump should not be close to things that are really hot, like heat pads/packs, electric blankets or hot water bottles.

## Please contact your nurse for advice if you notice any of the following:

- The colour of the medicine in the tubing or syringe has changed.
- If the medicine in the tubing or syringe looks cloudy or you can see small bits (sediment).
- The skin around the plastic needle is red, swollen or painful.
- The alarm on the pump sounds.
- Any of the medicine leaks out where the tubing meets your skin.
- The plastic needle comes out of the skin.
- The medicine doesn't change how you are feeling or you feel worse.