

The Equipment

- a) An MS26 syringe driver with 9 volt alkaline battery.
- b) 10 mls or 20 mls luer lock syringe according to the medication to be infused with green needle.
- c) Vialon cannula with infusion set.
- d) Micropore tape to secure and tegaderm or opsite clear dressing to cover.
- e) Razor (only if shaving necessary)
- f) Prescription chart, drug to be infused, water (unless otherwise stated) to mix.
- g) Syringe driver infusion chart and drug label.
- h) Sharps box.

Where Can the Driver be Sited?

- a) Site the syringe driver in a place convenient for patient comfort. Ask him/her where they would prefer it to be placed.
- b) In cases where the patient is confused and may potentially pull out the driver, the back is always the preferred site (between scapulas).

Sites for Syringe Drivers

Anterior chest wall

Anterior abdominal wall

Posterior aspect of shoulder

Anterior aspect of upper arm

Anterior aspect of thighs

Before Siting the Driver REMEMBER!

1. Check that you are 'happy' with the prescription and query those you are not.
2. To have checked the medication to be infused in the correct manner.
3. You have signed the prescription chart and/or drug control book.
4. Measured the fluid length along the mm scale on the driver and ensured that the rate is at the correct setting.
5. The line has been primed.
6. Completed the syringe driver infusion chart.

Siting the Driver

- a) The skin should be clean, dry and unbroken in the area you intend to use.
- b) Swab the skin with an alcohol wipe.
- c) Lift up a fold of the skin and gently insert needle/cannula, release the fold of skin when inserted (should be inserted at 45° angle).
- d) Remove metal introducer, leaving plastic cannula and dispose of in correct manner.
- e) Secure to skin with a small piece of micropore tape (check patient allergy). This is to help prevent drag of the line.
- f) Attach infusion line to the end of plastic cannula and secure all of this with the tegaderm/opsite clear dressing.
- g) Ensure the syringe and the line are connected and secured in the proper manner to the syringe pump by fastening with the black cord and the end of the syringe touching the plunger mechanism.

Patient Information and Education

Before using a syringe driver always ensure it is with the permission of the patient and/or family. There should always be a valid reason for using a driver i.e. unable to swallow oral medication. It is also essential that the patient understands why a syringe driver has been suggested and exactly how it works in controlling symptoms.

In the example of a patient who is unconscious then the discussion should be with relatives or carers.

You should always allay any fears or anxieties, which are often accompanied when syringe driver use is suggested.

Prior to Using a Syringe Driver

- a) Ensure you are familiar with the syringe driver policy and know how one can be obtained (every ward should have full policy).
- b) Check you have all the equipment needed to set up the driver and that you have signed the record sheet kept in central store with date, patient name and ward where the driver is to be used.
- c) Ensure you are aware of what to do should a patient be discharged home, transferred to another ward or hospital (ensure Palliative Care Team is informed).