



**Southport and
Ormskirk Hospital**
NHS Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

Infusion Device (Drip)

Information for Patients and Visitors

An integrated care organisation

An infusion device is a small machine that ensures drugs or fluids prescribed by a doctor are infused smoothly and accurately into your body. This is commonly called a “drip”.

There are 2 main types of infusion device:

- ❖ **VOLUMETRIC PUMP** – this infuses larger amounts of drugs or fluid into a vein. A drug called potassium is often given in fluid via this type of infusion device
- ❖ **SYRINGE DRIVER** - this infuses small amounts of drugs or fluids into a vein. Examples of drugs given via this infusion device are insulin and heparin



REASONS FOR AN INFUSION

Infusions can be given for a number of different reasons. Here are some of the most usual:

- ❖ Prevent dehydration/ keep the level of fluid in the body at a consistent level
- ❖ Infusing drugs such as antibiotics
- ❖ Chemotherapy
- ❖ Feeding nutrients directly into the body via a vein

ATTACHING THE INFUSION DEVICE

A plastic tube called a cannula is inserted into a vein using a small needle. This allows an intravenous infusion to be given. The cannula is then attached to infusion tubing which passes through the infusion device. This allows your intravenous infusion to be given extremely accurately.

MOVING AROUND WITH AN INFUSION DEVICE

Movement may be restricted if you have an infusion running through an infusion device. However, you should be able to read and eat unaided. Some patients may need the help of a nurse when washing or changing clothes or when going to the toilet. It is possible for you to unplug the infusion device for short periods (such as visiting the bathroom) as the device has a back-up battery which keeps the pump working for several hours whilst unattached from the mains. However, infusion devices should be kept connected to the mains if possible.

Most infusion devices are attached to a drip stand. This normally has wheels at its base and can be pushed around. When moving around, you should be aware of the possibility of infusion lines becoming entangled in door handles etc.

YOU ARE ADVISED NOT TO LEAVE YOUR WARD OR DEPARTMENT WHEN ATTACHED TO A DRIP/ INFUSION DEVICE. THIS IS FOR YOUR SAFETY TO PREVENT POSSIBLE PROBLEMS OCCURRING WITH YOUR INFUSION.

ALARMS

Infusion devices sound alarms for a variety of reasons. Most commonly, an alarm will sound to alert nursing staff an infusion of drugs or fluids is almost complete. Patients should not be concerned about these alarms.

MOBILE PHONES AND INFUSION DEVICES

Patients and visitors are advised NOT to use mobile phones in patient care areas. Mobile phone interference may affect the normal operation of infusion devices with potentially serious consequences. Please see posters on the use of mobile phones displayed throughout the Trust.

HERE TO HELP

All staff will do their best to ensure that personal needs are met and that mobility is restricted as little as possible when a patient is attached to a drip/infusion device. Patients (and their visitors) should ask staff if they have any further questions about their infusion device.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LIBRARY

The Medical Equipment Library stores and loans infusion devices and other commonly used patient care equipment such as air mattresses and feeding pumps. The MEL has been open from 2006 and is a quality initiative committed to enhancing patient comfort and safety. Infusion devices and other equipment stored can be accessed by staff 24 hours' a day.

The MEL is staffed by

LORAIN MCBRIDE
MEL MANAGER EXT. 5171

DAVID ASH
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LIBRARY TECHNICIAN

SAM KELLY
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LIBRARY TECHNICIAN

ROBERT MARSHALL
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LIBRARY TECHNICIAN

DANNY WILSON
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LIBRARY TECHNICIAN

RUSSELL PETERSEN
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LIBRARY TECHNICIAN

During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department Sister/Charge Nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

MATRON

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9.00 to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward/department staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Nurse can be contacted via the ward/department to deal with any concerns you may have.

INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please contact a member of staff if your infusion device is emitting an “alarm” sound.

ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

As above

CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION

Your own GP –

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) - 0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) - 0800 328 6297

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need
this leaflet in an alternative format**

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

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Tel: (01704) 547471

FOR APPOINTMENTS

Telephone (01695) 656680
Email soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net

Please remember to complete the **attached** *Friends and Family Test*.

Alternatively, you can complete the *Friends and Family Test* on-line by going to: southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/FFT

Thank you

Author: Catherine Carter
Ref: 504
Version: 7
Reviewed: January 2022
Next Review: January 2025