Management of Subcutaneous Infusion Devices in Palliative Care

CADD Legacy® PCA



Reservoir Volumes

1 ml to 100 ml

Duration

10 minutes to 96 hours in 5 minute intervals (not greater than 24 hours duration is recommended)

Alarms – audible and visual

- Air in line
- Low reservoir volume
- High delivery pressure
- Program incomplete
- Motor locked
- Upstream occlusion
- Pump fault

- Disposable not attached
- Reservoir volume empty
- Pump stopped
- Battery dislodged
- Low battery
- Depleted battery power
- Key stuck

General Principles¹

- Check manufacturer's guidelines and organisation's protocol regarding preparation and set-up for changing the device
- Use aseptic technique when preparing and setting up infusion
- Check microbiological stability, physical and chemical compatibility of drugs used
- Ensure patient and family/carer receive full explanation of how the device works and indications for use
- A prescription from a medical officer or appropriately credentialled nurse practitioner is required before administering any medication
- Use Teflon/Vialon cannula to reduce risk of site inflammation
- When changing extension set and/or cannula, prime line after drawing up prescribed medications, and before connecting to the patient

Prepared by the Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education in conjunction with Palliative Care Australia. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

1. Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education. Guidelines for subcutaneous infusion device management in palliative care (Second Edition). Brisbane, Queensland:Queensland Health;2010.

Selection, Preparation and Maintenance of Subcutaneous Cannula Insertion Site¹

- Site selection influenced by whether patient is ambulatory, agitated and/or distressed
- Select a site that is easily accessible eq. chest or abdomen, with a good depth of subcutaneous fat
- Select and use sites on a rotating basis
- Do not position cannula in areas that are:

Lymphoedematous or where lymphatic drainage may be compromised, e.g. in women who have had a mastectomy

Bony prominences or in close proximity to a joint

Inflamed or where there is broken skin

Sites of infection or tumour

Skin sites that have recently been irradiated

Where scarring is present or in skin folds

Wherever ascites or pitting oedema are present

• Site longevity varies from 1–14 days. Type of medication and type of cannula used will influence site longevity.

Subcutaneous Infusion Sites

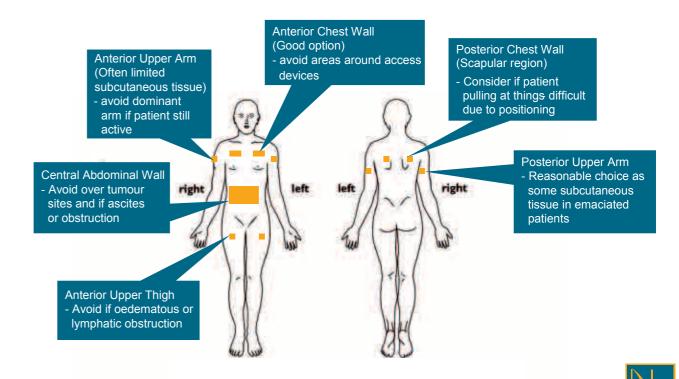


Image courtesy of Hume Region Palliative Care Consortium



