

ACTIVITY: Section 5 - Patient / Family Education Needs

To answer the questions in this section, you will need to refer to Section 5 of the Learning Package or the 'Guidelines for Syringe Driver Management in Palliative Care' booklet.

Q1) Mr. Boot and his family are concerned about maintaining his personal hygiene with a subcutaneous infusion in situ. What would you advise them?

- 1. Don't worry, the syringe driver is waterproof.
- 2. You should never disconnect the syringe driver under any circumstances.
- 3. Although discouraged, you can disconnect the syringe driver for brief periods such as hygiene.
- 4. You must turn the syringe driver off if you disconnect it.

Q2) Mr. Boot is concerned that the subcutaneous infusion may not manage his pain. What information would you give him to reassure him about this?

- 1. A syringe driver will always manage his pain, and no other medication will be necessary.
- 2. If a syringe driver fails to manage his pain, little can be done about this.
- 3. If pain occurs, breakthrough medication can be administered.
- 4. No more pain medication can be given due to possible side-effects.

Q3) The patient / family should be advised to have a spare 9 volt battery available.

- 1. True
- 2. False

Q4) Mr. Boot is concerned about what will happen if his syringe driver malfunctions at home. What advice would you give him?

- 1. Syringe drivers never malfunction.
- 2. If the machine malfunctions, turn it off until the healthcare provider visits again.
- 3. It is normal for pain to be experienced at the insertion site.
- 4. If the syringe is empty, the cannula has come out, or there are any other concerns, contact your healthcare provider.

Q5) When the light on the right side of the Graseby syringe driver stops flashing, it indicates:

- 1. the syringe driver will not work again.
- 2. it is time to change the battery.
- 3. It is time to change the syringe.
- 4. It is time to change the tubing.