

24 hour antibiotic infusion via elastomeric pump at home

Information for patients



This leaflet does not replace the information discussed between you and your doctor or nurse but can act as a starting point for discussion and is a useful reminder of key points.

The last page contains contact numbers to call if you have any concerns.

What is an elastomeric pump and what is it used for?

An elastomeric pump is a disposable, single use pump used to deliver intravenous (IV) medication slowly over time. The medication is held in a balloon within a hard outer shell. The pump is connected via a tube to your midline.

The pump works by the balloon putting pressure on the medication causing it to flow out into the blood stream. There is a flow restrictor at the end of the line which ensures a constant rate of delivery of the medication.

The pump is designed to continuously infuse over 24 hours without you having to do anything. You will visit your OPAT (Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy) nurse each day to check on your condition and to attach a new pump.

How do I know the pump is working?

Your nurse will show you the internal scale which monitors the medication being infused. We suggest you check this roughly every 4 hours – you could do this at each meal, when you get up and when you go to bed as a reminder.

- If this does not change, please check that the clamp is not across the line and that there are no kinks or twists in the connection tubing.
- Be aware that if you are receiving Ceftazidime, the infusion only runs for 18 hours. The scale will therefore not move between hour 18 and hour 24.
- Check for any leaks.

Avoid getting the filter wet or the filter having any contact with detergents like soap or alcohol as this may cause leakage.

Do not disconnect the pump from your midline at any time.

If you have any concerns, contact the OPAT nursing team.

Living with an elastomeric pump

You will be provided with a bag to carry your pump around in. Please try to keep the pump at the same level as your elbow (with your arm down). You can carry on as usual but try to avoid any rigorous movements which could cause the pump to become loose.

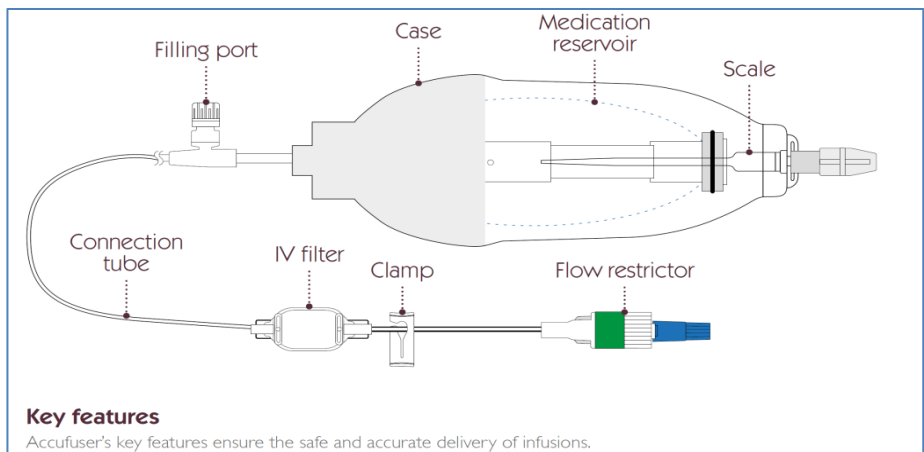
You can bathe but please protect both your pump and your midline from getting wet.

If necessary the bag can be washed in a light soapy solution – please ensure it is dry before using it.

It is best to keep the pump at room temperature, avoiding exposure to extreme heat or cold, which could affect the flow rate. Some people find it useful to keep the pump under their pillow at night. This helps keep a constant temperature and avoids it getting caught up.

What do I do if my pump disconnects?

1. Don't panic. Clamp the line as shown by the nurses. The diagram below is a reminder.
2. Contact the nurses who will tell you what to do.



Is the device reusable?

No. The pump should only be used once. Your OPAT nurse will supply a new pump each day and dispose of the old one.

Remember:

If you have **any questions or concerns** regarding your pump you can contact the OPAT Nurses on the following numbers:

Working hours: Between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Sunday

OPAT Nurse Specialists: **0131 537 2844**

Out with these times please call: **NHS 24** on **111**

In an emergency, dial 999.

This leaflet was written by the OPAT service, Western General Hospital Sept 2022. Adapted, with permission, from East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust 'Information for patients at home who require IV therapy through an elastomeric pump (October 2018)'

You can use this chart to record the pump volume readings each time you check it (roughly every 4 hours when awake)

Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4		Day 5		Day 6		Day 7		Day 8		Day 9		Day 10		Day 11		Day 12		Day 13		Day 14	
Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol	Time	Vol

You can use the space below to write any comments or questions you might have