



Education Guide for Elastomeric Pump

What is an elastomeric device?

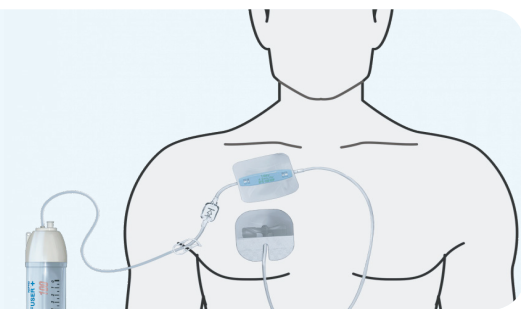
An elastomeric pump is a small, lightweight device used to administer antibiotics at a steady rate. It provides a continuous infusion of antibiotics.

A portable elastomeric infusion pump allows you to do your daily routine while receiving your IV treatment from the comfort of your home without being confined to bed.



How does it work?

A self-powered infusion pump does not require batteries or electricity and is used to administer medication intravenously. It contains a balloon pump that is filled with medication. As the balloon deflates, it pushes medication through the infusion line. The flow regulator built into the infusion line determines how quickly the medication is administered.



Process

- Once the physician decides on the continuous antibiotic treatment they will inform the Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) nurse.
- The OPAT nurse assesses the patient and activates the medication.
- The pharmacy sends the medication to OPAT infusion.
- The OPAT nurse will start your infusion by connecting your pump to your CVC and will tape the flow restrictor to your skin.
- It is important that the flow restrictor touches your skin at all times during the infusion.
- Once your pump is connected, you can go home. Your continuous infusion will keep running the whole time while your pump is connected.



How to wear the pump

- Wear your pump in the area between your armpits and hips. Wearing it higher or lower can make the medication flow too fast or too slow.
- It is best to keep your pump in the carrier pack given by your healthcare provider.
- Do not keep your pump under a warm jacket or blanket. This can make the pump too warm and cause the medication to flow too fast.
- At bedtime, keep your pump next to your side and above your blankets. Do not hang it on your bedpost or put it on the floor.
- Avoid sitting or lying directly on your pump, as this can cause it to burst.
- If you have a pet, make sure to keep your pump and tubing out of its reach.

Showering

- If you have an implanted port, do not get your implanted port access site wet.
- If you have a tunneled chest catheter or PICC, do not get the catheter exit site wet.
- Try not to get your pump or any part of the pump system wet.

Activities and exercises

- You can do light exercise, such as walking.
- Do not put heating pads, electric blankets, or hot water bottles directly on your pump.
- Do not take hot or very cold showers or baths.
- Do not swim, go in a sauna, or use a hot tub.
- Do not expose yourself or your pump to direct sunlight or very cold weather.
- Do not do anything else that would raise or lower your body temperature, such as running, jogging, and other strenuous exercises or activities that make you sweat.
- **During MRI, the elastomeric pump can be used safely.**

After infusion

A completely deflated balloon indicates that your infusion is complete. It's normal for the infusion to finish early or take up to two hours. **The OPAT nurse will disconnect the pump at the OPAT clinic.**

WHAT TO DO if there is a leak

In the unlikely event of a leakage, close the clamp immediately. If the infusion line is leaking, close the clamp above the point. If the pump housing is leaking, place it in a plastic bag. Report all leakages to the OPAT nurse and follow their advice. In case of severe complications, call emergency services.

WHAT TO DO if infusion stopped before infusion

- Verify that the clamp on the infusion line is open. Check the infusion line to make sure it is not twisted or kinked.
- If the clamp and infusion line are fine, try tapping the flow regulator with your fingertips while holding the filter vertically.
- If the infusion still does not start, close the clamp and call the OPAT nurse to understand how to proceed.

For any concerns or queries, contact the clinic on 023141441 or 023142175.
For out of hours, please call infectious disease duty doctor on 023144444.