

AMBULATORY INFUSION PUMP

How to Use Your Pump At Home

What you will find inside:

- What is an Ambulatory Infusion Pump?
- Parts of the Pump
- Wearing Your Ambulatory Infusion Pump
- How to Take Care of the Pump
- Common Problems
- When Should I Contact My Health Care Team?

What is an Ambulatory Infusion Pump?

A small battery-powered pump that slowly infuses medicine into your body through tubing that is usually connected to your central line (e.g. port or PICC line).

“Ambulatory” means that the pump is mobile, and can be moved around with you. Some intravenous (IV) cancer treatments can be given through this pump. This allows you to get some of your cancer treatment at home instead of at the cancer centre. Your healthcare team will support you when using this pump to ensure your treatment is given safely.

Parts of the Pump

Key Buttons and Features

This is an outline of the buttons and parts of your pump.



Photo 1: Main parts of the pump - indicator lights, front display, top battery compartment, and keypad with start/stop button.

Pump with Medicine Bag & Tubing

Your pharmacist and nurse work together to set-up your medicine and pump.

Your pharmacist programs the pump to give you your medicine at the right time and speed.

Tubing connects the medicine and pump to your body. The tubing is usually connected to your central line by your nurse.

When started, the pump pushes medicine slow and steady into your bloodstream.

Photo 2: Pump with IV tubing and components of tubing and medicine (chemotherapy) bag attached.

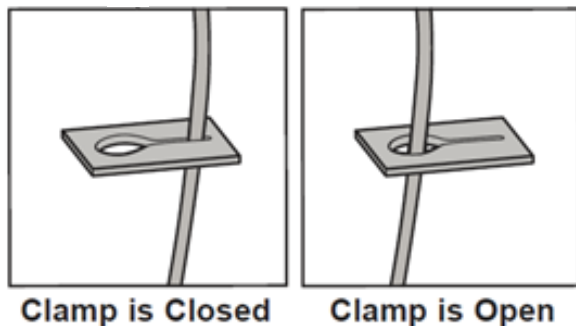
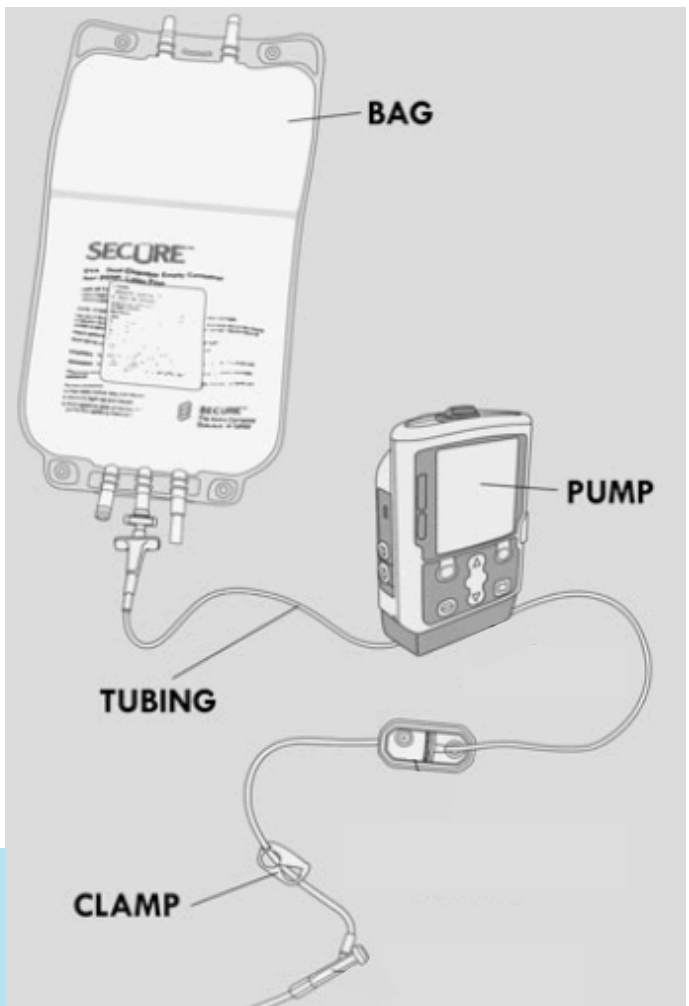


Photo 3: IV tubing clamp in closed and open position.

When you are at home check the clamp on your tubing at least 4 times a day to make sure it is always open. This will make sure you get your medicine.

When the clamp is open, you should be able to move the clamp easily up and down the tubing.

Indicator Lights

Indicator lights can be found at the top of the display screen, on the left hand side. There are 2 main indicator light colours: green and orange.

Green Flashing Light:

- When the pump is running and your medicine is infusing.

Orange Flashing Light:

- When the pump is stopped
- If there is an alarm
- When the battery is low
- If the medicine volume is low
- It stays on all the time when the pump is not working

Note: If **both** the green and orange lights are flashing this means that the pump is still running but there is a problem. See common problems on [page 5](#).

When the screen is on, it will have a:

1. **Green bar at the top that says: “Running”** when the pump is infusing:



2. **Red bar at the top that says: “Stopped”** if the pump is **not** running:

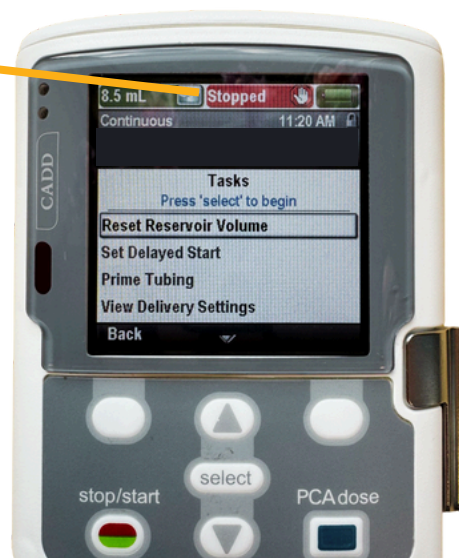


Photo 4: Pump screen showing the indicator bar at the top of the screen.

Wearing Your Ambulatory Infusion Pump

Your nurse will attach the pump to your central line. They will let you know how long you will need to use the pump and when the pump will be disconnected (taken off).

You can keep doing most of your normal activities while wearing the infusion pump, but you will need to be more careful than usual. The hospital will give you a case to carry the pump for convenience.

Your nurse will show you how to care for the pump and explain what to do in an emergency.



Photo 5: Example of Ambulatory infusion pump carrying case, with shoulder strap.

Taking Care of Your Pump

- Always make sure your **pump stays dry**. If your pump gets wet, wipe it dry with a towel and call the Inpatient Oncology Unit.
- When showering, cover the pump and your central line dressing with a plastic bag. Place the pump on a chair beside the tub or hang the pump on a hook outside the shower. Using a hand-held shower head can help keep the pump, central line, and dressing dry.
- **Keep your pump parallel** (side by side) to you while sleeping. Do not place it on the floor, or on a shelf above your bed.
- **Avoid pulling on the tubing** to stop it from coming off your central line or pump.
- **Check your pump**, the tubing and your central line at least **4 times a day** to ensure the medicine is flowing through.

Common Problems

The Pump Alarm Will Not Stop


If the alarm does not stop, call your **home care nurse** to help you at home. You may be asked to come into the hospital to change the pump, call the Inpatient Oncology Unit at WRHN Regional Cancer Centre and ask to speak to a nurse.

The Pump Alarm Goes Off

If you hear an alarm from the pump, **check the message on the display screen**. See below for some common reasons why the pump might alarm:

Low Battery:



1. Press the stop/start key on the pump.
2. When **"Stop Pump"** shows on the screen, select **"Yes"**.
3. The pump will stop. The green **"Running"** message in the status bar changes to a red **"Stopped"** message.
4. Press the **power switch** on the right side of the pump: 
5. A second message, **"Power down?"** will appear on the screen, select **"Yes"**.
6. Turn the knob on the battery compartment counter- clockwise and open the battery compartment door.

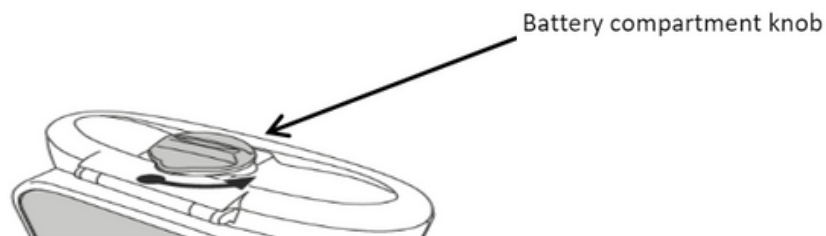


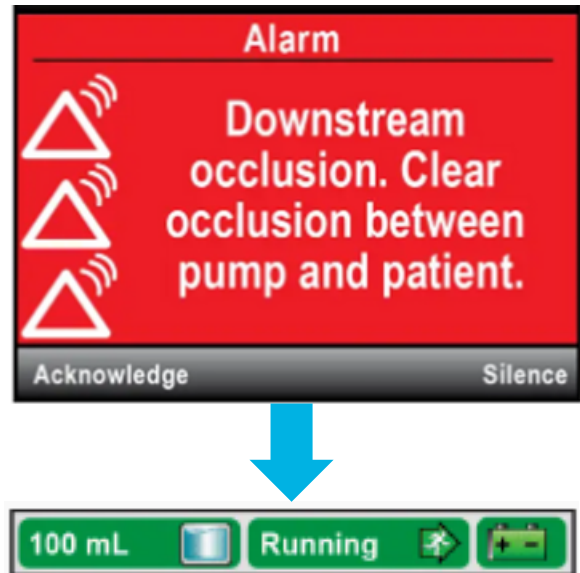
Photo 7: Photo showing the top of the infusion pump, where you can find the battery compartment knob.

7. Replace the 4 AA batteries (these will be given to you by your healthcare team) lining up the + and – markings on the new batteries with the markings on the pump (if the batteries are put in the wrong way, the pump will not turn on).
8. Close the battery compartment door and turn the knob clockwise to lock it.
9. Press and hold the **"power"** button on the side of the pump to turn it on. The pump will run through some checks when it turns back on. If it alarms any **"errors"**, call the inpatient oncology unit as you may need to come in and have the pump looked at (see contact info on page 9).
10. Press the **"Start/Stop"** button on the front of the screen. You will be asked **"Start Pump?"** Choose **"Yes"**. You will be asked, **"continue infusion"**, choose **"Yes"**.

Pump Screen Shows “Downstream Occlusions”

This alarm happens when the tubing is blocked.

- Silence the alarm by choosing “acknowledge” on the screen.
- Check that your tubing is not twisted
- Check that all clamps are open on the tubing and your central line.
- Once the issue is fixed the alarm will stop.
- Check to make sure that your pump says “running” in green along the top of the display screen.



Pump Screen Shows “Air in-line”

This alarm means that the pump thinks there is no more medicine in the bag.

- This alarm may go off up to 15 minutes before your medicine is done.
- Turn **off** your pump. See page 6 for instructions on how to turn off your pump.
- Contact your **home care nurse**.



The Pump Leaks

If the pump comes apart from your central line, stop the pump by pressing the “start/stop” button on the keypad. When “stop pump?” appears on the screen, select “Yes”.

The screen will have a red bar that says “stopped”:



- Close the clamp on your central line.
- Use the spill kit to clean up any spill.
- Call your home care team for help with spill clean-up and central line care.
- Call the inpatient oncology unit at WRHN Regional Cancer Centre to make arrangements to get the rest of your medicine.

Safety At Home

Below are some tips to stay safe at home with your pump:

- Keep the pump and tubing away from pets and children
- Avoid activity that can cut or melt your tubing (e.g. cooking, cutting etc.)
- A spill kit will be given to you on your first day of treatment. Keep this ready, and on hand in your home. **If at any point you have to clean up a spill wear the protective gear in your spill kit.**

When Should I Contact My Healthcare Team?

You should contact your Healthcare Team **right away** if:

- You notice any pain, redness, swelling, or fluid is leaking from where your central line goes into your body
- Your pump is alarming and you cannot get it to stop
- You see blood in the IV tubing
- Anytime the dressing over your central line becomes damp or wet
- You are concerned and do not know what to do

Call Your Healthcare Team

Nurse Navigator

226-750-9099, Weekdays from 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Inpatient Oncology Unit

519-749-4300 ext. 2175

After 4:00PM, on Weekends or Holidays

Use this resource for your information only. It does not replace medical advice from your doctor or other Healthcare professionals.

Scan the QR code for more information on our regional website.



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