

## SFHCHS49

### Deliver subcutaneous treatments using syringe drivers or infusion devices



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#### Overview

This standard covers the delivery of subcutaneous treatments using syringe drivers or infusion devices. It includes the initiation of the subcutaneous delivery of medication using electrically powered (battery/mains) syringe drivers or infusion devices. It also covers the selection of suitable subcutaneous sites, the preparation of the medication to be given and commencement of the treatment. The standard is relevant to the use of syringe drivers or infusion devices for all subcutaneous treatments given to adult patients.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 adhere to national and/or local policy and guidelines at all times
- P2 greet, accurately identify the patient and/or key person and introduce yourself and any colleagues present
- P3 assess the patient fully, including fitness for the procedure combined with review of the patient's notes and prescription to identify any special instructions (e.g. allergies), investigations or items for which you need to seek advice
- P4 determine whether the prescription is clinically appropriate for the patient and medication compatible
- P5 assess the patient's psychological and emotional state and respond appropriately
- P6 inform the patient and/or key person of the procedure and where appropriate, how to manage the syringe driver or infusion device, the treatment and potential reactions
- P7 obtain informed consent for all interventions, accurately answering any questions that arise at an appropriate level and pace
- P8 check that you have the appropriate syringe driver or infusion device and equipment, in addition to checking treatment medication against the prescription, patient information and patient identity
- P9 ensure you prepare the syringe driver or infusion correctly and position the patient appropriately and comfortably
- P10 agree appropriate infusion site with the patient, prepare site and insert and secure the cannula before commencing the infusion
- P11 remove and dispose of all contaminated waste
- P12 advise the patient and/or key person on specific necessary precautions related to the attached syringe driver or infusion device and who to contact if problems arise
- P13 record details of the procedure and treatment in the patient's notes, medication charts and any other relevant documentation ensuring team members are aware of these details
- P14 assess both the efficacy and effect on the patient of the medication using the patient's physical, psychological and emotional condition, their response to the treatment and any reactions or allergies which may have become apparent, seeking advice from an appropriate team member/specialist if required
- P15 prepare medication to be given, draw up, label syringe and line, or use supplied pre-filled syringe to continue infusion if syringe is due to be changed, or prescription has changed
- P16 recognise when you need help and/or advice and seek this from appropriate sources

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 national and/or local policy and guidelines for syringe drivers or infusion devices and other equipment
- K2 national and/or local infection control and COSHH policies and guidelines
- K3 national and/or local policy and guidelines for consent to use subcutaneous infusions
- K4 national and/or local policies and guidelines for waste and sharps handling and disposal
- K5 national and/or local policy and guidelines for patient identification
- K6 national and/or local policy and guidelines for patient records, their storage and confidentiality of information
- K7 the range of information which should be made available to the patient
- K8 national and/or local policies and guidelines for risk management and adverse incidents
- K9 the symptoms associated with the relevant disease, treatment and its side effects
- K10 the safe application of subcutaneous medications for treatment, symptom control and pain management
- K11 medication calculations appropriate to procedure
- K12 national and/or local policy and guidelines for recording medication usage
- K13 medication compatibility
- K14 the manifestations of the patient's physical and emotional status
- K15 medical terminology relevant to the treatment
- K16 the safe operation of syringe drivers or infusion devices/equipment
- K17 the importance of timely equipment fault recognition and national and/or local policy and guidelines for dealing with these
- K18 equipment capabilities, limitations and routine maintenance
- K19 the roles and responsibilities of other team members, associated professionals and agencies
- K20 the importance of clear communications
- K21 the importance of patient choice and the ways in which they can be supported to make an informed choice
- K22 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence

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### Additional Information

#### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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**Relevant occupations** Health and Social Care; Health and Social Services Officers; Health Associate Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services

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**Suite** Clinical Health Skills

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**Key words** syringe driver, subcutaneous device, infusion devices, subcutaneous, pumps, butterfly cannula

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