

Your Ambulatory Infusion Pump (AIP)

In this booklet, you will learn:

- What is an Ambulatory Infusion Pump (AIP)
- How to use and care for your AIP
- Important Safety Tips
- Important numbers to call if you need help



Adapted from the “Your Ambulatory Infusion Pump (AIP)” with permission from the University Health Network Patient and Family Education Program.

What is an ambulatory infusion pump?

An Ambulatory Infusion Pump (AIP) is a small battery powered pump that slowly delivers medicine like chemotherapy or antibiotics into your body. The pump gives medication over a specific time frame as set by your doctor. Getting medication through an AIP lets you carry on with most of your daily activities at home without having to stay at the hospital overnight

How to prepare for the pump

To get your medication through the AIP you will need a central line. The type of central line that you get will depend on the type of medicine and how long you need to get the medicine. Here are the types of intravenous (IV) lines (delivering medicine directly into the blood) that can be used with the pump.

- Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)
- Tunneled catheter (like Bard Powerline™)
- Implanted port/passport

To make sure you are comfortable, it is best to wear loose clothing with larger sleeves, short sleeves or no sleeves. If you have a Tunneled catheter or implanted port, a shirt with buttons at the front will make it easier for your nurse to get to your IV and attach your medicine to the pump.

How to use the pump

Your nurse will set your pump to deliver the medication at a given rate, time and volume (amount). The pump will then be connected to your IV. Your nurse will tell you how long you will need to wear the pump. During this time you can go about your normal activities with care. The pump must always remain connected to you until it is completed, at which time a nurse will disconnect the pump.

You will have to purchase a carrying case for your AIP from the pharmacy on M –wing (6th floor) or T-wing (1st floor). You can use a carrying case of your own, like a fanny pack or a shoulder purse. If you use your own bag and are receiving Chemotherapy, we recommend that the bag be washed (separately) in the washing machine twice or thrown away after use.

Your nurse will go over instructions on how to take care of the pump and what to do in case of an emergency. These instructions are very important and are included in this booklet for you to review.

The pump has several safety features that will stop you from accidentally changing the settings. Your nurse will tell you which information is important for you to know.

How to turn the pump on and off

Turning the pump on and off yourself can be very dangerous as it can affect or change when the medicine is given to you. Please do NOT press the power button. The nurse will set the pump timer for you before you leave the hospital. Please check with your nurse if you have any questions.

How to stop and start the pump

Your pump will be started by the nurse at the hospital. Stopping or starting the pump on your own may lead to your medicine being given too early, too late or not at all. This can be very dangerous. Please do not press the stop or start button. Please check with your nurse if you have any questions.

What to do if the alarm comes on

ALARM MESSAGE TABLE

Message on the Display Screen	What does this mean?	What to do?
"Error"	There is a problem with the pump.	Call the hospital on the numbers listed on the last page of this booklet.
"LowBat" or "Battery Depleted"	The batteries are low.	
"High Pressure" or "Occlusion"	The medicine is not getting through the tubing. There may be a bend or twist in the tubing or a clamp might be closed. Check the tubing and make sure that all clamps are open.	
"Service Due"	The pump is still working, but you will need to come to the hospital to change the pump.	
"Air in the line"	There is a pocket of air in the line.	

How to care for your pump

Safety tips:

- Keep the pump away from damp and humid areas (bath or sauna)
- Do not place the pump in water and keep it away from any fluid that may spill on it
- If you accidentally drop the pump in water, take it out right away and wipe it dry with a towel. Please call the hospital. You might need to come to the hospital to replace the pump.

How to bathe or shower with your pump

- Keep the pump and your IV dressing dry by covering them with a plastic bag.
- Place the pump on a chair beside the tub or hang it on a hook outside the shower.
- Using a handheld showerhead can help keep the pump and IV dressing dry.

How to sleep with your pump

- You may place the pump under your pillow or next to you in the bed. DO NOT place it on the floor or on a bedside table.
- Always check to see that the pump and tubing are near each other. This will stop the tubing from being pulled and coming apart from the IV or pump.

How to reduce the likelihood of chemotherapy spills at home

Chemotherapy drugs are dangerous to cancer cells and healthy cells. Your body can take in chemotherapy drugs by direct skin contact, breathing them in (inhalation), or by swallowing them (ingestion). Here are some safety steps you can take to reduce the chances of your family and pets coming in contact with chemotherapy drugs.

- DO NOT remove or disconnect the pump, tubing or medicine bag that holds the chemotherapy. Keep the tubing and bag attached to the pump and return everything to the hospital.
- You and your family members should know how to use the items found in your chemotherapy spill kit that has been given to you at the start of your treatment. Keep this kit somewhere where you will be able to get to it quickly.
- Disposable gloves should be used if someone other than yourself is cleaning up your bodily waste (throw-up, poop or pee) and when handling soiled linens, bedpan or urinal or anything else that may have come in contact with chemotherapy.
- Once your treatment is completely done, do not re-use the carrying case that was used to carry the chemotherapy bag and pump during your treatment until it has been washed. The carrying case must be washed by itself.
- If you notice that the chemotherapy bag or IV tubing is leaking, or if the IV tubing is not connected to the catheter, you or your caregiver should refer to the instructions on your chemotherapy spill kit.

What to look for and when to call the hospital

Take a look at your pump, IV and the medicine bag at least once or twice a day and watch for any of the points below.

Call the hospital if you notice any of the following:

- Redness, swelling, discharge or fluid leakage from or around the IV or central line
- Pain or discomfort, numbness/tingling around the IV site, shoulder, chest or jaw
- The pump does not appear to be working or continues to alarm
- The amount of fluid in the medicine bag or plastic cassette does not seem to be getting lower as the day goes on.
- The IV medicine finishes earlier than it was scheduled to.
- A pocket of air in the tubing cassette or IV bag
- Blood pooled along the IV line, IV site or tubing connecting site.
- The IV catheter or needle is coming out from the IV insertion site. **DO NOT** push the IV catheter back into place as this can lead to infection. Then, clamp the tube immediately and phone the hospital.

What to do with the pump when you are done treatment

It is very important that the pumps are returned once the treatment is completed. If you are not able to return the pump, please call the hospital and ask the hospital operator for the Complex Malignant Hematology Outpatient unit and ask to speak to the team leader to talk about ways of returning the pump. It is your responsibility to return the pump to the hospital.

Please return the pump to:

Complex Malignant Hematology Outpatient Unit (C606) or
the Complex Malignant Hematology Unit (D Wing, 4th floor).
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
2075 Bayview Ave, Toronto ON

Who to call if you have questions

This section has important phone numbers to call if you have questions or need help. If at any time you are not able to get help from someone at the hospital go to your nearest emergency department to get help with the pump.

Please have the following information ready

- Name of medicine on the medicine label
- Start date of medicine
- Expected stop date
- Your doctor's name

Important Phone Numbers

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre:
416-480-6100

Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

- Please call the Complex Malignant Hematology Outpatient Unit (C606) phone number: 416-480-6100 ext. 4312



After hours weekdays 5:00 PM – 8:00 AM, weekends and statutory holidays

- Please call 416-480-4244 (locating) and ask to page the Leukemia Complex Malignant Hematology pager to speak to the Nurse Practitioner or Resident/Fellow On-call

Odette Cancer Centre
2075 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4N 3M5
sunnybrook.ca/programs/occ

