Using Your Insulin Pump in the Hospital

If you use an insulin pump at home, this *Health Facts for You* will help you decide if it is safe to use your pump in the hospital. It explains what your healthcare team will expect of you if you stay on your pump. It will also describe what you can expect from your team. Please tell your nurse or another member of the healthcare team if you do not want to use your pump.

What We Expect of You

Manage Your Pump
- You must be able to use your pump without help from healthcare team members.
- You must be able to review pump settings like basal rates, bolus doses, and correction doses. If changes are needed, the team will help to decide what changes are best, but we will rely on you to make the changes to your pump settings.
- You must let us know how you correct or “fix” your high blood sugars.
- You must let us know about changes you make to your pump settings. We need to record the doses of insulin you give.

Provide Pump Supplies
- You must provide all of your pump supplies. If you do not have supplies, we will likely need to stop your pump and inject insulin with syringes.
- If needed, we can provide the insulin. Talk with your nurse and/or pharmacist about this.

Change Infusion Site
- You must be able to change your infusion site without help from healthcare team members. This should be done every 2-3 days. If you change your site more or less often, let a member of your healthcare team know.

Let Staff Check Your Blood Sugars
- You must allow us to check your blood sugars using our hospital blood glucose meters. These meters are checked every day for accuracy. The results are also recorded so that all team members are aware of the results.
- Use these results to decide how much insulin to give yourself.
- You may use your own lancet device if you prefer.

Count Carbohydrates (“Carbs”)
- If you did not count carbs at home, you do not need to do so in the hospital.
- If you do count carbs, you must tell the healthcare team what your insulin to carb ratio is. If the ratio varies during the day, let us know.

Troubleshoot
- You must be able to deal with pump problems. You should at least know the toll free 1-800 phone number for the pump company. If the problem cannot be fixed, let staff know right away so that we can help to figure out the next step.
Communicate

- Help us to keep you safe! You must be willing to talk with your team about your pump. Some staff, like those helping with x-rays, other tests, and surgery, may not know that you have a pump. They need to know that you have a pump to provide the best care possible.
- You must let nursing staff know about changes you plan to make with your pump settings.
- You must let nursing staff know if you do not have enough supplies to keep using your pump.
- Ask questions if you have any!

What to Expect from Your Healthcare Team

Assess Your Ability to Use a Pump Safely

- We will ask you questions about your pump. Questions will include:
  - How often do you change your infusion site?
  - What type of insulin do you use?
  - Can you show me the basal rates that you have programmed?
  - How much insulin do you give to cover meals? What about snacks?
  - How do you treat your high blood sugars?
  - What do you do with your pump when you have a low blood sugar?
  - Do you know how to change your pump settings?
  - What do you do if you think the pump is not working?
- Nurses will ask how much insulin you have given for food and high blood sugars. They will also confirm your basal doses. This will be entered in your chart.

- We will also be sure that you do not have any mental or physical issues that could impact safety.

Check Your Blood Sugars

- The nursing staff will check your blood sugar at least 4 times a day.
- If your blood sugar is high or low, your healthcare team will help to find a cause. If no cause can be found and the blood sugars stay high or low, you may need to stop using your pump. Insulin can be given using syringes instead. In some cases, an intravenous (IV) infusion will be needed.

Look at Your Infusion Site

- Staff needs to look at your infusion site. They need to look for signs of infection or other skin problems.

Coordinate Special Circumstances

- X-rays, CT, MRI, PET Scan or other tests using magnetic fields: It is not safe to have your pump connected when you have certain tests. If you need these tests, you will be asked to disconnect or remove your pump. It should be kept in a safe place outside of the room where you are having the test. Your healthcare team will help to coordinate this.
- Surgery: Talk with your team about whether it is safe to keep your pump on during surgery. It may be possible if the surgery is less than 2 hours.
- If your pump needs to be removed for more than 1-2 hours, you may need insulin injections with syringes. In some cases, an intravenous (IV) infusion will be needed. Your healthcare team will discuss the changes with you.
Prioritize Your Safety and Health

- Our priority is your health and safety. If it is no longer safe for you to keep using the pump, it will need to be removed. Reasons could include:
  - You are no longer able to use the pump without help from the team.
  - You have high blood sugars that cannot be controlled using the pump.
  - You have repeated low blood sugars.
  - You do not communicate with us about the insulin you are giving.

- If your pump needs to be disconnected for any reason, insulin will be given using a different method.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

If you are a patient receiving care at UnityPoint – Meriter, Swedish American or a health system outside of UW Health, please use the phone numbers provided in your discharge instructions for any questions or concerns.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person’s health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 9/2018. University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7012
Patient’s Bedside Record for Insulin Pump Use in the Hospital

Please help us to keep track of how much insulin you are using through your pump. Let us know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Today’s Date: __________

Brand/Model of Insulin Pump: ________________
Type of Insulin: ________________
Current infusion site started on ________________ (date) Location: ____________
If infusion site changed today – Time: __________

Total Daily Dose (Past 24-hour total): ________________ units
- The nurse will ask you for this information every morning. The nurse needs to chart this in your medical record.
- It is the total amount of insulin given during your day yesterday.
- You should be able to find this amount in the "Utilities" or "History" menu based on the brand of the pump you use. Please ask for help if you can’t find it.

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