

Information sheet for families: *CADD™-SOLIS and CADD™-SOLIS VIP* infusion pumps

PallConsult

Support for clinicians
delivering end-of-life care

This document provides information about a medical device called a CADD™-SOLIS or a CADD™-SOLIS VIP infusion pump. These devices can help improve quality of life for the person you are caring for.

About CADD™-SOLIS and CADD™-SOLIS VIP infusion pumps



CADD™-SOLIS and CADD™-SOLIS VIP infusion pumps are used to deliver medicine to manage symptoms such as nausea or pain.

What is an infusion pump?

An infusion pump is a small portable battery-operated device. Attached to the device is a cassette containing medicine as prescribed by your doctor or nurse practitioner. The pump is used to give the medicine at a constant rate throughout the day. The CADD™-SOLIS and CADD™-SOLIS VIP are types of infusion pumps commonly used in Australia. These infusion pumps operate in a very similar manner.

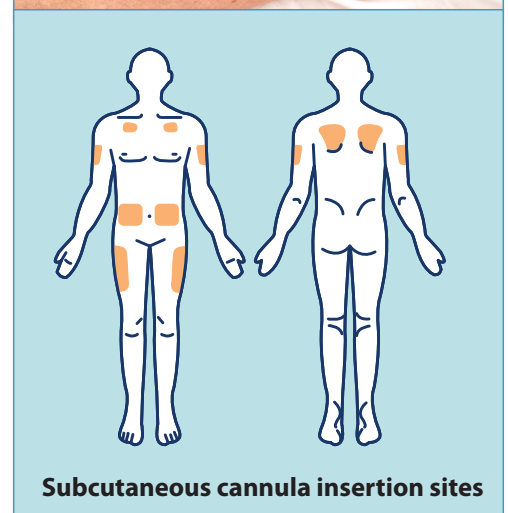
How does an infusion pump work?

An infusion pump works by very slowly pumping medicine from a cassette through tubing and a plastic cannula placed just under a person's skin.

Once under the skin the medicine is absorbed into the body. This is called a subcutaneous infusion. Before the infusion pump is set up, a nurse will insert the subcutaneous cannula. The place where the subcutaneous cannula goes into the skin is called an insertion site. Common sites for insertion are the upper arm, the chest, the abdomen and the upper leg. The cannula is secured in place using a clear, waterproof dressing. This enables the area to be washed. The cannula is attached to tubing connected to the medication cassette on the infusion pump.

Why is an infusion pump used?

The infusion pump and the subcutaneous cannula are a safe and painless way to deliver medicine to help manage a person's symptoms. Medicine in an infusion pump is often used to treat common palliative symptoms such as pain, shortness of breath, nausea and/or vomiting or restlessness/agitation. An infusion pump is used in different circumstances, for instance if a person is unable to swallow properly or if medicine taken by mouth cannot be absorbed effectively.



How safe are the CADD™-SOLIS and CADD™-SOLIS VIP infusion pumps?

These infusion pumps are used extensively in Australia and have proven to be very reliable and safe. Infusion pumps have many safety features:

- The rate at which the medicine is delivered is fixed so it cannot accidentally be changed
- It will sound an alarm if anything goes wrong.

What is the role of the health care team?

A doctor or nurse practitioner will prescribe the medicine to be put in the infusion pump. A nurse or another health professional will insert the subcutaneous cannula, draw up the medicine into the cassette and set up and check the functioning of the infusion pump.

A health professional will check regularly that the:

- Cannula remains in place
- Insertion site does not show signs of swelling, tenderness, redness or leakage
- Infusion pump is running properly, and delivering the correct dose of medicine
- Person remains comfortable and their symptoms are controlled as best they can be.

Are there any special considerations if the person is being cared for at home?

If the person is being cared for at home, the family will be relied upon to report any concerns about the person or the infusion pump. They will be provided with a 24/7 phone number that can be called so family members can ask questions and be provided with reassurance or instructions from their health care team.

Family members will be asked to:

1. Check the subcutaneous cannula insertion site a few times a day

Look at the insertion site and contact the health care team immediately if any of the following is noticed:

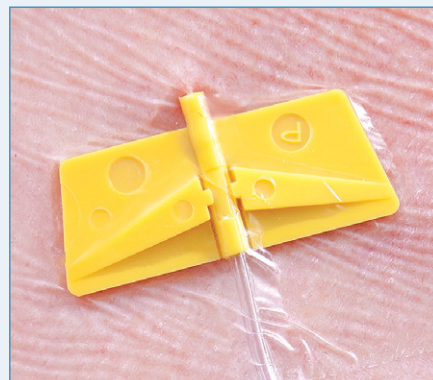
- Swelling
- Tenderness
- Redness
- Leakage around the insertion site
- The cannula and the clear film have been dislodged.

2. Check the infusion pump a few times a day

- Make sure the green indicator light keeps flashing and that the tubing is not leaking. *The pump does not have to be checked overnight.*
- You may be able to hear a low 'whirring' sound or you can see the reservoir volume on the screen slowly decreasing.
- The pump may alarm and an amber light may flash if there is an issue. Contact the health care team if this occurs.

3. Remember

- The infusion pump is NOT waterproof. The infusion pump should not be immersed in water. The pump should be protected from water splashes while the person is showering e.g. wrap the pump in a plastic bag.
- A pouch or holster can also be used to carry the infusion pump if the person is moving around.



Subcutaneous cannula insertion site

Indicator lights and alarms

When the pump is powered ON, one or both of the indicator lights flash.

- **Green:** The green light flashes to indicate that the pump is running and delivering as programmed.
- **Amber:** The amber light flashes when the pump is stopped, an alarm condition exists, or the battery or the reservoir volume is low. It stays ON continuously when the pump is inoperable. The display briefly describes the alarm condition when the amber light is flashing.
- **Note:** At times both lights may flash. This indicates that the pump is running, but there is a condition the health care team should be aware of (for example, low battery or low reservoir volume).



The pump may sound a continuous or intermittent alarm sound.

If you have any concerns about the infusion pump, the subcutaneous cannula insertion site, or the person, contact your health care team.

Notes

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Contact information for carers of home-based palliative care patients

Name of clinical service

Business hours telephone number

After hours telephone number

Contact your health care team if you have any concerns.