

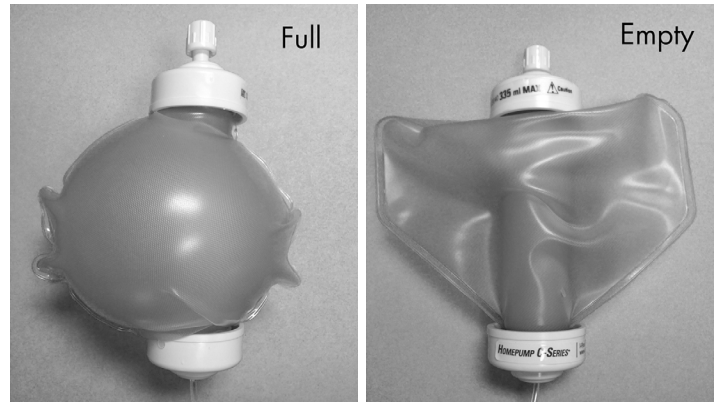
# Elastomeric Device Patient Information Sheet for Peripheral IV

Your health care provider has decided that you need medication that will be given through a vein in your arm, which is called intravenous (IV) therapy. Your IV medication will be given to you by a device that holds the medication called an elastomeric device. There are many **benefits** of receiving IV medication through an elastomeric device such as:

- Being able to disconnect from the device between doses
- Light, discreet and portable to allow you to carry it around wherever you go
- Simple to use and supports independence as the device is self-managing
- No difficult programming, alarms, power cords, batteries or IV poles

## How does my elastomeric device work?

The elastomeric device has a “balloon” that holds the medication. As soon as your elastomeric device is connected to your IV site, and the clamp is in the open position, it will immediately start delivering your medication. The balloon will lightly push the medication through the IV tubing and into your vein using a gentle pressure. The balloon will slowly shrink and become smaller in size as you receive your dose of IV medication. This is a good way to tell if the medication is going into your vein. This will continue until it is empty and your medication dose is complete. Please call your nurse if you notice the balloon not getting smaller. **Each elastomeric device holds a single dose of your medication.**

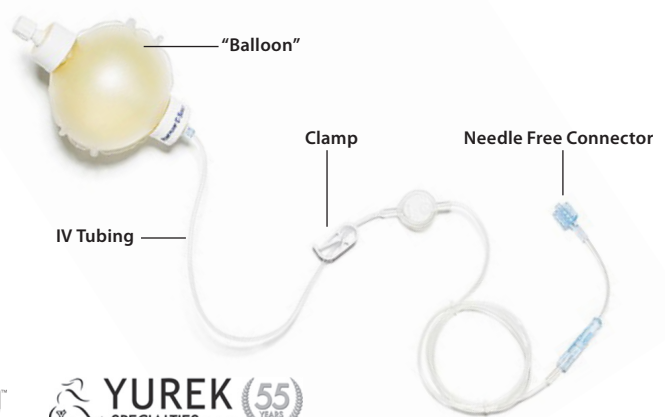
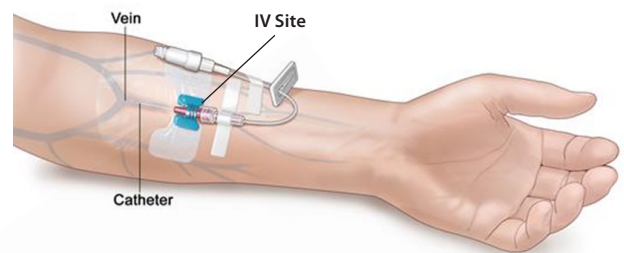


The above is an example of what the elastomeric device would look like when full and empty.



### **NEVER squeeze the elastomeric device.**

The elastomeric device will apply gentle pressure on its own to push the medication through. If you try to help by squeezing the device you could end up causing a leak, or push the medication in too quickly.



## Important Details for Using Your Elastomeric

The pharmacy will drop off your elastomeric devices and instruct you to place in fridge. Your nurse will review with you how your medication should be stored.

**Temperature:** The medication should be at room temperature during use. Be sure to take a single elastomeric device out of fridge 6-8 hours before your dose is due. Check the manufacturer's booklet for specific recommendations. If you forget, remove from fridge as soon as you remember and inform your nurse. If the medication is not at room temperature it will take longer to infuse which is not ideal.



**NEVER put the device in the microwave, on a heating pad, in direct sunlight or in warm water to warm your device.** Protect your elastomeric device from sources of heat and freezing cold.

**When carrying your device:** Keep the device as close to the same level of your IV site as possible. While your medication is infusing, you can place the device in a carrying case, your purse, or on a bedside table next to you.

**Showering or Bathing with your device:** The device should never be submerged in water. It would be best to avoid bathing or showering while connected to the device. If you must bathe while device is connected, be sure the device is outside of the tub, away from water.

**Sleeping with the device:** You may be using your device while sleeping. The device should be placed on a bedside table or on top of the bed covers. Do not place the device on the floor or hang the device on a bed post. The device should not be placed underneath the bed covers as the device may become too warm.

## Using Your Elastomeric Device

### Step 1: Get your work space ready

- ✓ Make sure you have a clean area work in.
- ✓ Always wash and dry your hands thoroughly before touching your IV.
- ✓ Be sure the medication is at room temperature.
- ✓ Check the medication label (check that the label has your name, dose and is not expired).
- ✓ Check the appearance of the medication. If the device is leaking, damaged, or the line is not clamped, call your nurse.
- ✓ Call your nurse if you have any questions or something does not look or feel right.



### Step 2: Layout your supplies

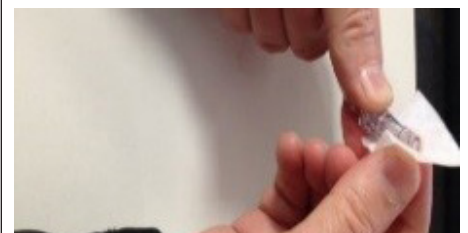
For each dose you will need:

- 2 Saline syringes
- 3 Alcohol wipes
- 1 elastomeric device with medication



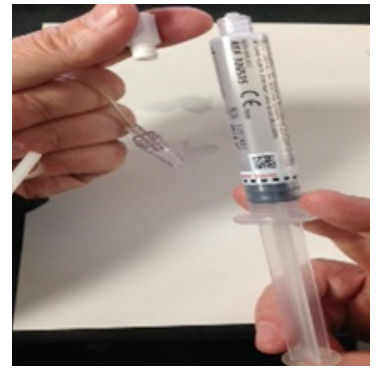
### Step 3: Clean the needleless connector

- ✓ Using an alcohol swab clean the end of needleless connector on your tubing from your IV site for 15 seconds using a twisting and scrubbing action.
- ✓ Your nurse will show you the correct way to do this.



#### Step 4: Prepare your syringes

1. Wash and dry hands.
2. Hold the syringe upright with the plunger at the bottom and tip pointing up. Press the plunger with the tip cap on to release the stopper seal. You may or may not hear a click.
3. Hold the syringe upright to let the air move to the tip of the syringe.
4. Unscrew and remove the cap from the syringe. While continuing to hold the syringe upright, press on the plunger to remove air. You do not want any air to be pushed into your vein. Be careful to not touch the tip of the syringe.



#### Step 5: Flush your IV tubing

1. Take the first saline filled syringe, and connect it to the needleless connector by pushing the syringe into the needleless connector then twisting clockwise.
2. Open the clamp on the IV extension tubing
3. Inject 3ml of normal saline through the IV catheter by gently pushing the plunger using a push-pause method to push 3ml of normal saline through the IV catheter.
4. Watch for any swelling around the IV site. If there is any swelling or pain, stop immediately and phone your nurse to discuss.
5. Slide clamp to closed.
6. Disconnect the syringe from the needleless connector by twisting counter clockwise.
7. Discard the syringe in waste receptacle. Never re-use a syringe.



#### Step 6: Administer your Medication

1. Open the clamp on your elastomeric device.
2. Remove the protective end cap and see if the medication is flowing. Remember do not let the end (without the cap) touch anything. Once you confirm it is flowing, replace the protective cap and clamp the tubing. If you do not observe flow, phone your nurse.
3. Cleanse needleless connector with the second alcohol swab, allow to dry.
4. Remove protective cap from tubing of the elastomeric device.
5. Connect the elastomeric device tubing to the needleless connector on your IV site using a push and twist motion.
6. Open clamp on the elastomeric device and the IV extension tubing.
7. Your medication will begin to flow. While medication goes through IV, continue to watch for swelling or pain. If swelling or pain occurs, clamp IV tubing and phone your nurse.
8. Place elastomeric device at same height as your IV site. The medication will now be infusing into your body.
9. Wait for infusion to be completed. You will be able to tell if your medication is infusing because the size of the balloon inside the elastomeric infusion device will slowly become smaller. It may be difficult at first to notice the balloon changing size, however as the medication goes through it will become visible. If you notice the balloon not becoming smaller over the 30- 60 minutes, phone your nurse.



### Step 7: Disconnecting your IV

Once elastomeric device is empty, wash your hands thoroughly.

1. Look to make sure the device is empty.
2. Close all clamps.
3. Disconnect elastomeric device from needleless connector.
4. Replace the protective cap on the elastomeric infusion device before throwing it in disposal bag.



### Step 8: Flush your IV line

1. Clean end of needleless connector on your tubing from your IV site with the 3rd alcohol swab for 15 seconds using friction and let it dry for about 30 seconds.
2. Take second pre-filled saline syringe, remove its protective cap, and push slightly to remove any air before connecting. Connect it to the needleless connector by pushing the syringe into the needleless connector then twisting clockwise
3. Open the clamp on your tubing.
4. Slowly inject 3cc normal saline solution over 15 seconds, using a start stop technique. Ensure there is no pain, swelling or leaking during the injection. If there is, phone your nurse.
5. Close any clamps on the tubing and remove the syringe.
6. Discard the syringe in waste receptacle. Never re-use a syringe.



## What to do with the elastomeric device after your dose is done?

Once disconnected, place your device in the medical waste bag provided by the pharmacy. The pharmacy will pick up the devices. Caution: Never reuse the device

## What to do if the infusion isn't working like it should?

### If the device does not seem to be working, make sure:

- The device is at room temperature
- The clamp on the tubing is open (moves freely on the tubing)
- There are no kinks in the device tubing

### If the device tubing becomes disconnected from your IV site:

- DO NOT reconnect
- Close the clamp on the tubing and immediately call your nurse

### If the device leaks:

- If the medication gets on your skin, immediately wash the area
- Close the clamp on the tubing and immediately call your nurse

If you experience any complications, questions or concerns please contact your visiting nurse or pharmacist.

Nurse Phone Number:

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