**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Who makes the decision to start a syringe driver?**

The decision to deliver medication through a syringe driver will be decided after medical review.

**Where do I get a syringe driver from?**

In the first instance contact the bleep holder / night manager a syringe driver (and equipment to set one up) is held in the Night Managers office.

If this one is currently in use for another patient then contact Royal Trinity Hospice (telephone no. 020 7787 1062). This will be couriered over from Royal Trinity.

Email the Clinical Nurse Specialist Palliative Care at RHN ([kelliott@rhn.org.uk](mailto:kelliott@rhn.org.uk)) to advise and this can be added to the record of syringe drivers held at RHN.

**My patient is distressed and uncomfortable, what do I do in the meantime whilst I’m waiting for the syringe driver to be couriered over?**

During this time if the patient is symptomatic please make use of the PRN medications prescribed to ensure that the patient remains settled and comfortable.

Please refer to the symptom management guidelines available on the intranet for guidance.

I cannot remember how to set a syringe driver up

Refer to the setting up guidelines and quick reference guide detailed on the intranet..

**Where do I get further equipment?**

20ml BD Plastipak Leur Lok, extension sets, batteries, tegaderm, ward responsibility to order these, please ensure you keep a small stock of these. A small supply of batteries should be supplied on set up. A new battery should last approximately three days. It is the responsibility of the ward to order further supplies of all equipment to set up and maintain the syringe driver.

It is the responsibility of the team using the syringe driver to ensure that it is cleaned according to manufacturer’s guidelines following each patient use and in guidance of the RHN Infection Prevention and Control Policy.