

Your anaesthetist has performed a nerve block and placed a catheter with an elastomeric pain pump for your post-operative pain control needs. The following is a brief overview of the instructions you and/or your family received at the time of your discharge. Your pain pump does not contain any narcotics; therefore, you should not experience any adverse effects such as dizziness, sleepiness, nausea or vomiting. The pain pump contains an anaesthetic which is a 'numbing agent' only. The pain pump will provide you with pain relief for approximately 3 days. The outcome and benefits of using this pain pump may vary from patient to patient with the type of surgery that was done. These benefits may include decreased pain, decreased narcotic consumption, quicker return ambulation and bodily function.

The nerve block only targets a specific area around your surgical site. Some leaking may occur at the catheter insertion site which can be normal. It is important to understand you should also take your pain pills as prescribed by your anaesthetist or surgeon.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the ON-Q* system treat all of my pain?

- Patients experience different levels of pain. The ON-Q* system works with other medications or therapies your doctor may prescribe to manage your pain after surgery. With the ON-Q* system, you may need less narcotics and have better pain relief than with narcotics alone.

How do I know the pump is working?

- The pump delivers your medication very slowly. It may take longer than 24 hours after your procedure to notice a change in the size and look of the pump.
- As the medication is delivered, the pump (ball) will gradually become smaller.
- You should also take any other pain medicine as instructed by your doctor.

How long will my ON-Q* pump last?

- Depending on the size of your pump, it may take 2-5 days to deliver all the medication.
- All the medication has been delivered when the ON-Q* pump is no longer full. The outside bag will be flat and a hard tube can be felt in the center of the pump.

ON-Q* Pain Pump Instructions

1. Your pain pump has an optional 5ml bolus that has a refill time of 30 minutes. If you experience break through pain, press down on the bolus button until the button locks into place. The medicine will be delivered and the bolus button will pop up after a few minutes. The bolus will then begin to fill. The orange bolus refill indicator on the side of the ONDEMAND* bolus shows you how much medicine is in the bolus.
2. You will not be able to see the medicine flowing through the tube, and the pump will not show any visible decrease in size the first day. You will barely notice a slight sagging around the sides within the first 24 hours.
3. Do not turn the pump off unless instructed to by your anaesthetist.
4. If your pain pump catheter comes out accidentally, simply discard and begin taking your pain pills as prescribed.
5. If you have questions/concerns about the pain pump only, contact your anaesthetist (contact details can be found on the back page of this form). For any other issues, call your surgeon.

Instructions for patients discharging with an ON-Q* Pain Pump

While the catheter is in use and working leave your arm in the sling as it will be heavy and weak.

Please continue to use the catheter until:

The block stops working or

The fluid bag is empty or

Four (4) days have passed since your operation

Once you decide to remove the block catheter complete the following steps:

1. Wash your hands
2. Remove the sticky tape holding the catheter in
3. Pull out the catheter and dispose in the bin. You may need to press on the hole where the catheter was removed from, with a clean tissue for 2 minutes, if there is fluid leaking out
4. Place a Band-Aid over the hole

For any further questions please contact:

..... (Your anaesthetist)

