Intrathecal Permanent Pain Pump
Discharge Instructions

Now that you have an intrathecal pain pump, we will rely on your feedback to assist us in managing your pain. Often it can take 3 to 6 months before you can get the best pain control with your pump.

Your pain pump incision site
• Watch for signs and symptoms of infection and call your pain doctor if you notice:
  – Any of these signs at the pain pump entry site:
    a. Redness
    b. Increased pain, soreness or tenderness
    c. Swelling
    d. Bleeding or drainage
  – Temperature (higher than 101°) and/or chills or sweating
• Keep dressings on abdomen and back dry until your appointment at the Pain Management Center.
• You may take sponge baths until your appointment.
• Do not remove the surgical dressing.
• Keep the abdominal binder on for 8 weeks to aid in healing the pump pocket and to prevent fluid build-up in the pocket. The binder should be worn at all times, except when bathing.

Call your pain doctor if you have any of these symptoms:
• Bleeding at the incision site that does not stop
• Uncontrollable, severe itching
• Nausea or vomiting
• Trouble urinating. If you cannot urinate at all, go to the emergency room.
• New and unusual sleepiness
• Severe persistent pain
• Progressive or new weakness, numbness, and/or inability to move legs
• Ankle swelling
• Pump beeping and you are not due for a refill.
• Severe headache. If you get a headache, try to rest and drink plenty of fluids (especially caffeinated). If the headache doesn’t subside, call your pain doctor.

If you have questions or concerns, call your pain doctor.

Call the office #_____________________ for a follow-up appointment as soon as you can. This appointment will probably be in 1 to 2 weeks. At that time, we may need to adjust the medications in your pump.

The information presented is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care provider. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have a health problem.