

PATIENT CONTROLLED ANALGESIA - PCA

YOU MAY EXPERIENCE SOME DISCOMFORT AND PAIN AFTER YOUR SURGERY. THIS CARD WILL EXPLAIN TO YOU HOW YOU CAN HELP CONTROL THAT DISCOMFORT OR PAIN.

WHEN DO I USE IT?



WHAT IS PATIENT CONTROLLED ANALGESIA (PCA)?



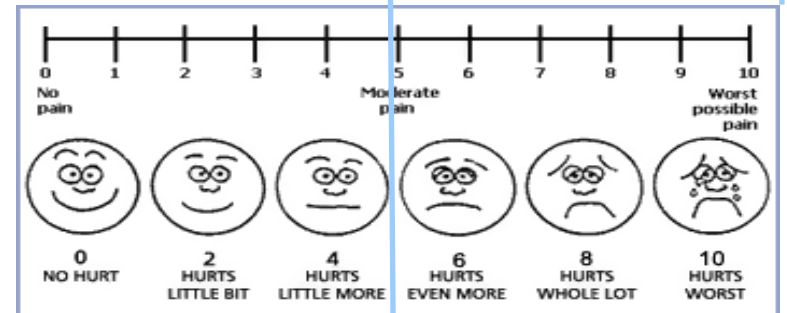
Using the drip in your arm this machine will give you pain relieving medicine WHEN YOU NEED IT

HOW DO I USE IT?



When you start to feel pain you will press this button ONCE.

You will then receive a set amount of the pain medicine

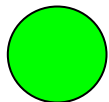


No Pain

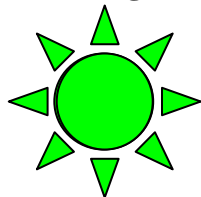
Bad Pain

Use when pain level is within this range.

Ready for use



Delivering Drug



Not available for use



HOW OFTEN CAN I USE IT?

- ✓ Whenever you feel an uncomfortable level of pain
- ✓ Before you do exercise that could cause pain
- ✓ Before an operation bandage is changed
- ✓ CAN I GIVE MYSELF TOO MUCH MEDICINE?

No, the doctor has ordered the medicine to be given in amounts that are suitable for your pain. The nurse has programmed the machine to only give you a set number of doses of medicine each hour when you press the button, so that you cannot get more medicine than is suitable for you.

CAN I BECOME ADDICTED TO THE MEDICINE?

When pain medicine is given for the relief of pain the body accepts the pain relief BUT DOES NOT become addicted to the pain medicine.

WILL I HAVE TO STAY IN BED WHEN I USE THE PCA ?

No, the PCA machine will be attached to a pole on wheels so that you can move around with the pole and machine.

HOW LONG WILL I HAVE THE PCA FOR?

Only while you are experiencing the strong pain that is as a result of your surgery.

HOW QUICKLY DOES THE PCA WORK?

As soon as you press the button the drug is delivered, you will begin to feel the effect of the pain medicine within a few minutes.

WHAT DO I DO IF I STILL HAVE PAIN?

If you are having problems using the machine, or you are still having pain after using the machine please speak with the nurse looking after you. She can:

- ✓ Assess your pain with you
- ✓ Help you use the machine correctly
- ✓ Provide you with additional support to manage your pain
- ✓ Contact your doctor to get further help for you

ARE THERE SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE PCA?

Sometimes people experience side effects including:

- ✓ Nausea and vomiting
- ✓ Feeling Drowsy
- ✓ Feeling sweaty
- ✓ Having bad dreams

All of these side effects can be fixed so please let the nurse know as soon as you experience any of these.

Interpreter Services For People With English Language Difficulties

If you do not understand the information contained on this card about the use of the PCA, tell staff you need an interpreter and someone who speaks your language will be made available, where possible.