



Patient Education

CARING FOR YOUR INTRATHECAL PAIN PUMP AND SITE

Intrathecal drug delivery means that you are being given pain medication directly to your spinal cord through a small surgically implanted catheter into the fluid filled space around your spine. This catheter is connected to a small pump that is delivering pain medication at a rate that controls your pain.

This method of medication delivery is used after other types of medication have failed to control your pain. The pump is programmed to slowly release medication into that space around your spinal cord. If you have this pump at home, a nurse will be visiting you frequently to check your pump and site of catheter. Report any unusual side effects or symptoms to your physician or home health nurse.

Things to remember:

- The visiting nurse will change the dressing covering your site. This is done under sterile conditions.
- Notify your doctor if you have a fever of 101 or more or you have chills.
- You may shower with this catheter in place according to your doctor's instructions. Please keep the site clean and dry at all times.
- Report any redness, drainage or bleeding at your insertion site
- Notify your nurse if you notice any leaking from the catheter site or tubing.
- Report any headache that persists over 48 hours
- Report any back pain, leg weakness or spasms, or loss of bladder/bowel control

KPHC will be delivering your ordered medication to your home as needed. Please call KPHC if you have any questions or concerns regarding the medication that is being provided by KPHC.

Your home health nurse will notify us when your supplies or medication become low.

**Call KPHC Nursing Service with any questions or concerns
1-888-463-8083**