

## Subcutaneous Infusion Devices – influencing the future for palliative care

### Background

The Graseby MS16A (introduced in 1976) and MS26 (introduced in 1983) syringe drivers have been a mainstay of palliative care provision across Australia for more than twenty years. News the supplier will cease supply of these devices in October 2007 has caused widespread concern in the sector. Click [HERE](#) for an information sheet on the regulatory requirements for the supply of medical devices in Australia.

Palliative Care Australia has met with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the supplier, Smiths Medical to outline the concerns of the sector and discuss the status of these syringe drivers. The concerns expressed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration about the safety of these devices dictate that our sector must now take steps to explore alternative subcutaneous infusion devices. Palliative Care Australia is seeking to foster and promote clarity for the sector on the way forward to ensure optimum care for our patient group.

### The Process

Palliative Care Australia, in conjunction with the clinical expertise of the Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education (CPCRE) is working to provide clarity for the sector through a process which will enable the sector to identify the clinical and technical criteria required of any potential replacement device.

Once these criteria are confirmed, manufacturers and suppliers of current and emerging devices will be asked to evaluate their devices against the criteria. The results of this process will be disseminated and allow the sector to make an informed decision about which subcutaneous infusion devices might best meet identified needs.

To contribute to this process, please consider what you think are the **five** most important criteria in the evaluation of the suitability of a subcutaneous infusion device. Click [HERE](#) to email PCA with your top five criteria.

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| <b>Safety</b>  |  |
| 1 - tamper resistant and tamper evident (through alarms, logs or physical measures)                                  | 18 - lifespan of more than 5 years   |
| 2 - contains record log for drug audit purposes  | 19 - compatible with a range of different consumables                          |
| 3 - patient bolus demand facility with lockout (for dosages beyond a certain volume per hour or per block of time)   | 20 - accurate, precise and reliable in delivery                                |
| 4 - "user" and "administrator only" functions  | 21 - delivers smooth, even flow  |
| 5 - alarm to specify user error  | 22 - capacity to delivery up to 50ml over 24 hours                             |
| 6 - failsafe stop/alarm on internal error  | 23 - programmed to run at mls/time period <u>not</u> mm/time period            |
| 7 - visual indication of amount of drug delivered and amount of drug remaining in syringe                            | 24 - capacity to deliver several drugs in combination                          |
| 8 - lock-out system to ensure delivery of set amount in set time   | 25 - lightweight and easily portable   |
|  | 26 - indication when the pump is working and not working (i.e. blinking light) |
| <b>Simplicity</b>  | 27 - easy access to maintenance and repair facilities                          |
| 9 - easy to set up and operate   | 28 - long life battery and capable of running on DC power                      |
| 10 - large, simple control interface with clear indication of dosing rate in mls/min, mls/hour or mls/day (only one) | 29 - appropriate length of infusion line                                       |
| 11 - no complicated programming  |  |
| 12 - disposable consumables  | <b>Transferability</b>   |
| 13 - disposable infusion system (use only once)  | 30 - suitable in different palliative care settings: hospital/home/RACF/rural  |
| 14 - system comes pre-prepared at different doses  | 31 - suitable for most populations: e.g. paediatric/aged care/MND/dementia     |

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| <b>Cost</b>                                 |
| 15 - similar to the cost of current devices |
| 16 - low consumable costs                   |
| 17 - low maintenance costs                  |

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| 32 - suitable for use by most centres          |
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| <b>Other</b>                                   |
| 33 - supplied with an education package        |
| 34 - availability of on-line education package |

Click [HERE](#) for the presentation on syringe drivers given at the 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Conference on Friday 31 August.

If you have any questions, please email Karen Cooper, Senior Adviser, at [karen@pallcare.org.au](mailto:karen@pallcare.org.au) or call on +61 2 6232 4433.