



Patient & Family Guide  
2018

# Receiving Your Pamidronate by an Intermate<sup>®</sup> Infusion Pump



[www.nshealth.ca](http://www.nshealth.ca)

# Receiving Your Pamidronate by an Intermate® Infusion Pump

## What is an Intermate® Infusion Pump?

An Intermate® Infusion Pump is a lightweight disposable pump that may be used to give you medications. This pump lets you receive medications safely and comfortably in your own home.



## What types of medications can be given at home?

Many different medications can be given safely by an infusion pump in your home. One example is a medication called pamidronate.

## How does the infusion pump work?

- The medication is inside a balloon in the pump. The balloon gently pushes the medication through the tubing into your intravenous (IV).
- The pump runs at a set rate. It does not need to be programmed and it does not need batteries.
- A pamidronate infusion takes about 2-3 hours.

## **Do I still have to come to the hospital?**

Yes, you will have to come to the hospital to have your pamidronate infusion started. A nurse will start your IV and connect the pump. Instead of waiting in the hospital during the infusion, you may go home or do other activities. The nurse can teach you how to disconnect the pump at home.

If you are not comfortable with taking your IV out at home, you may return to the hospital to have this done. If you have a port-a-cath, you may leave the hospital during your infusion and return to have the pump disconnected.

## **How do I carry the pump?**

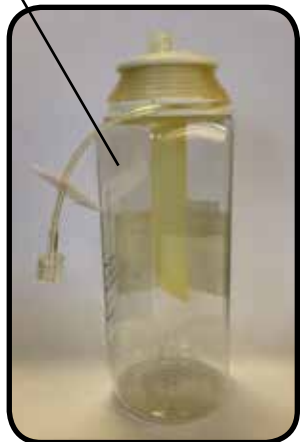
- The pump should be carried at waist level. Many people wear their pump in a bag or purse around their waist or over their shoulder.
- The pump will run in any position (upside-down or sideways).

## How do I take care of the pump?

- The pump should be kept at room temperature. It runs faster as it gets warmer and slower if it is too cold. If you are outside in cold weather, keep the infusion pump close to your body.
- Check your IV site every 30 minutes while the medication is running.
- Check the balloon inside the pump every 30 minutes. The balloon should be getting smaller over time. If the balloon stays the same size, check to make sure the tubing is not kinked (bent) and the clamps are open.
- You may do regular activities (such as walking, driving a car, or eating) while having this infusion.

Full

Empty



## How do I know when the pump is empty?

When the balloon inside the bottle is empty, you will be able to see small bumps on the stem.

You may be told how to disconnect your pump at home or you will get an appointment to have your pump disconnected at the hospital.

## What if I need help with the pump at home?

Most patients have no problems with the infusion pump.

If you have questions about the pump, call the hospital: 902-\_\_\_\_\_

## What should I do if:

### The IV site gets red or swollen:

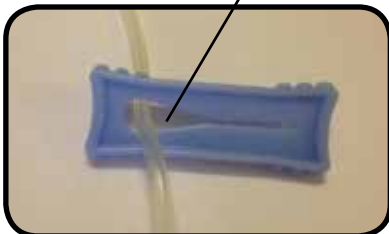
- Stop the infusion by closing the clamp on the tubing.
- Take out your IV. (See the instructions on the next page.)
- Call the hospital for further instructions.

### The pump leaks:

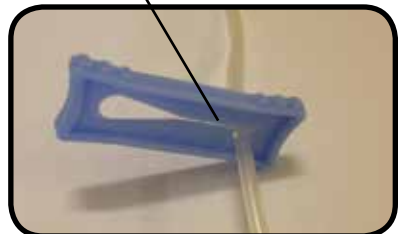
- Stop the infusion by closing the clamp on the tubing.
- Put the pump in a plastic bag.
- Call the hospital for further instructions.

If any of the medication touched your skin, wash the area right away with soap and water.

Clamp open



Clamp closed



**When your pamidronate is finished and the balloon in the pump is empty, follow these steps to take out your IV:**

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Close the clamp on the tubing.
3. Open the gauze package.
4. Remove the tape and dressing holding the IV in place.
5. Slowly take out the IV by pulling it straight out.
6. Put the gauze over the spot where the IV needle came out. Using the gauze, press down on the area for 2-3 minutes, until the bleeding stops. If you are on blood thinners or have a low platelet count, press down on the area for 5 minutes.
7. Put a Band-Aid® on the spot.
8. Put the IV and the empty pump in a plastic bag. You can throw them away in your normal garbage.

# Notes:

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Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time: call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

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Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!*

**Nova Scotia Health Authority**  
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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.