

PCA (Patient Controlled Analgesia) Pump

A PCA pump is an IV (intravenous) pump that lets you manage your pain medicine. When you have pain, you push a button on the cord and a certain amount of pain medicine is given into your IV.

Only you should push the PCA button. Family members and friends are not to push the button. There is a risk of dangerous side effects if anyone but you pushes the PCA button.

When to Push the Button

- When you begin to feel pain, push the button.
- The pump will beep when you are getting the pain medicine. If the pump does not beep, it is not time for your next dose of medicine. Wait a few minutes and then push the button again if you are having pain.
- Push the button before any activities that may make your pain worse, such as walking, physical therapy, coughing and deep breathing.

If You Still Have Pain

If you do not have pain relief and it is not time for your next dose, call your nurse. Tell the nurse about your pain, including where it is and how much it hurts. The nurse can work with you and your doctor to manage your pain.

Tell your nurse or doctor if:

- You do not have pain relief.
- You have any side effects from the pain medicine, such as:
 - ▶ Sleepiness
 - ▶ Slowed breathing

- ▶ Nausea or vomiting
- ▶ Constipation
- ▶ Itching
- ▶ Problems urinating
- Your IV hurts, is red, swollen or leaking.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

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