

INSULIN PUMP THERAPY

Guidelines for Pump Failure

Like any computers, insulin pumps can fail. Sometimes this occurs after office hours. It's important to have a plan in place. When your pump fails, you must inject insulin another way. Here are some tips and guidelines.

Write Down Your Pump Settings and Keep Them Readily Available

At each office visit, write down any changes to your settings. If you upload, settings can be found in your account, however it's still helpful to keep a written copy. Keep track of the following setting:

- **Basal:** rates, times, max basal rate, type of temporary basal
- **Bolus:** carb ratios and times, sensitivity (correction) factor and times, target blood glucose (BG) and times, insulin on board (active insulin) time, maximum bolus
- **Alarms:** type of alarm, low reservoir volume, hours to pod expiration (Omnipod only), auto-off hours (if using that setting)
- **Sensor:** transmitter ID, high alarm, low alarm, high snooze time, low snooze time, low threshold suspend value (if available)

Contact Your Insulin Pump Company

Know the telephone number of your insulin pump company. Call them right away when your pump fails. They can usually send you a new pump within 24 to 48 hours.

Access to Long-Acting Insulin to Inject During Insulin Pump Failure

Long-acting insulin is usually Lantus, Levemir, or NPH. You may also use Tresiba or Toujeo, but these are more complicated when it's time to re-start the insulin pump.

- Keep a vial or insulin pen on hand for pump failure *or* have a prescription available. Ask your diabetes care team if you don't currently have one of these options available.
- You'll also need either syringes or insulin pen needles. At every office visit, confirm your current long-acting insulin dose.

Manual Injections Until a New Insulin Pump Arrives

You must give yourself insulin injections until your new pump arrives.

- Before meals, use your carb ratios to cover the food you're about to eat.
- If blood glucose is above target range, also calculate the correction factor.
- Replace your insulin pump basal with long-acting insulin.
 - If using Lantus or Levemir, take that dose right away.

When the New Pump Arrives

- You can't begin using the new insulin pump until 24 hours after your last manual dose of long-acting insulin.
 - If taking Tresiba or Toujeo, contact your diabetes care team about when to begin using the new insulin pump.
 - If taking NPH, inject it manually at bedtime and use the new pump when it arrives.
- Program the new insulin pump with your normal settings. By having your settings written down, a pump company representative can help you program the new insulin pump.

Communicate with Your UMass Memorial Diabetes Care Team

Let us know when your insulin pump fails, what your backup plan is, and ask any questions you may have.

If you require assistance to program your new insulin pump, schedule an appointment with one of our certified diabetes care and education specialists (CDCES).

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