

Patient Information

Intrathecal Pumps

You have had a device implanted into your back which delivers pain relieving medication to the fluid surrounding your brain and spinal cord. The device has been primed with medication to begin the process of improving your pain control.

It may take some time to achieve this improvement and you should not be concerned at this point in time if things do not seem much different. There are various matters which may occur postoperatively of which you should be aware:

1. Headache – this is quite common. It is worse if you sit or stand up, and better if you lie down. Drink plenty of fluid, particularly tea, coffee or coca cola. We anticipate that this will resolve over the next few days.
2. Infection – this is very uncommon. Notify the Flinders Pain Management Unit immediately on 08 8204 5499 if you develop redness around your wounds, increasing pain, discharge from your wounds or a fever.
3. Internal bleeding – this is very rare. Notify the **Flinders Pain Management Unit** immediately on 08 8204 5499 or **go straight to the Flinders Medical Centre Emergency Department** if you develop increasing back pain with weakness and/or numbness in your legs.

You will stop for a check-up with your doctor at the Flinders Pain Management Unit on your way home from the Repatriation General Hospital.

You will then return to the Flinders Pain Management Unit in 10 days time for removal of sutures. At this point we will also start the process of reprogramming your pump. You will then have regular appointments for medical reviews and pump refills as required.



This document has been reviewed and endorsed by consumers.



Government of South Australia

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