

# Using the On-Q<sup>®</sup> Pain Relief System

## Your ON-Q<sup>®</sup> Pain Relief System

Patient Name:
Doctor Name:
<b>CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR DIAL 911 IN AN EMERGENCY</b>
Doctor's Phone Number:
Next Appt. Date and Time:

## MEDICATION IN PUMP: LOCAL ANESTHETIC

Drug Name:
Drug Concentration:
Approx. Date Infusion Will Be Complete:

## FLOW CONTROLLER TYPE

<input type="checkbox"/> Select-a-Flow <sup>®</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> ONDEMAND <sup>™</sup> Bolus Dose Limit _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Flow Rate
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## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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## OTHER MEDICATIONS


## CATHETER

<input type="checkbox"/> Surgery Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Nerve Block	<input type="checkbox"/> Epidural
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## About the On-Q® Pain Relief System

Your doctor has given you the On-Q® Pain Relief System to help control the pain you may feel after surgery.

The system includes a balloon-like pump that is filled with medication to numb the area around your incision. The pump is attached to clear tubing with a filter, a flow controller, and then to a catheter that is placed under your skin near your incision. A catheter is a very thin, flexible tube. The flow controller (also called the flow restrictor) automatically releases medication from the balloon pump. It travels from the balloon pump through the tubing and is delivered at the incision site, relieving your pain.



## How the On-Q® System Works

### 1. The “Balloon” Pumps the Medication through the System

- The “balloon” pump contains the medication your doctor has prescribed for you.
- The On-Q® system gives you your medicine very slowly. Once you receive your On-Q® system, it may be 24 hours or more before you notice any change in the size of the balloon pump that delivers your medication.
- You won’t see a change in the pump every day; neither will you be able to see a line in the pump showing the level of the medication. You won’t see the medication flowing through the tubing, either. The tubing will look clear.
- As time passes, the pump gradually will become smaller. The outside bag of the pump will get looser and wrinkles will appear.

To ensure that the balloon pump operates correctly:

- ✓ Do not squeeze the balloon.
- ✓ Check that there are no kinks in the tubing.
- ✓ Check that the filter is not covered with tape or anything else.

**CAUTION:** You may experience some numbness or loss of feeling around the area of your incision. If that happens, be careful to avoid injury. Do not put anything hot or cold on the numb area.

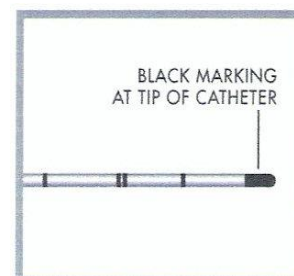
- Do not take a tub bath while the On-Q system is in place. If your doctor said you could take a shower, follow these instructions:
- Cover the filter with plastic wrap and tape around it to keep the filter dry. After your shower, carefully remove the tape and plastic wrap.
- Keep the pump dry. If it gets wet, dry it thoroughly.
- Depending on the size of your pump, it may be 2 to 5 days before all the medicine in the pump has been released. Go to Step 3 for instructions on what to do when the pump is empty.
- **Fixed Flow Rate**  
This flow controller is set at a specific, “fixed” rate that cannot be adjusted by you or your doctor.
  - Make certain the flow controller is next to your skin. This allows the pump to give you medication at the right time.
  - If you are using cold packs or any other kind of cold therapy, keep it away from the flow controller and the lower part of the tubing.

## **2. IMPORTANT: If Any of These Symptoms Occur, Call Your Doctor Immediately**

- Increased pain
  - Fever, chills, or sweats
  - Changes in bowel or bladder function
  - Trouble breathing or shortness of breath
  - The area around where the catheter enters your skin looks red, or swollen; feels warm or painful; or appears to have a discharge, large bruises, or excessive bleeding
  - Dizziness or light-headedness
  - Blurred vision
  - Ringing or buzzing in your ears
  - Metallic taste in your mouth
  - Numbness or tingling around your mouth or in your fingers and toes
  - Drowsiness
  - Confusion
  - Other side effects specified by your doctor:
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### 3. When the Pump is Empty

- You can tell when the pump is empty because the outer bag of the pump will be flat. You will feel a hard cylindrical tube in the middle of the bag instead of a ball.
- The catheter is a small tube inserted near your incision that is connected to your On-Q® system. It may be clear or golden in color. You may have been told to call your doctor or a visiting nurse when the pump is empty so you can have the catheter removed. Or, if you told your doctor you would be comfortable doing this, you may have been given instructions on how to remove the catheter yourself.
- To remove the catheter yourself, follow these steps:
  - Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 15 seconds. Rinse with water and towel dry.
  - Remove the clear dressing that covers the place where the catheter was inserted. Peel the dressing back by grasping it at one edge. Loosen the dressing from around the tube.
  - Remove any additional adhesive strips.
  - Hold the catheter at a point close to your skin and pull **gently**. The catheter should come out easily. **If it is hard to remove, or if it starts to stretch, STOP, and call your doctor.** Continuing to pull could break the catheter off. **DO NOT cut the catheter or pull hard on it to remove it.**
  - You will know that the catheter is completely removed when you see the black marking at its tip. **If you do not see the black marking, call your doctor.**
  - Once you are certain the catheter has been completely removed, place a bandage over the place where it had been inserted.
  - If you have more than one catheter, repeat these steps to remove that, too.
  - When the catheter(s) and all adhesive strips have been removed, carefully wrap up the pump, the tube, the flow controller, the catheter, and all dressings and discard them. The On-Q® system cannot be reused.
  - Wash your hands again with warm water and soap. Rinse and towel dry.
- The next day, remove the bandage and check the area where the catheter had been inserted. If there is any redness, pain, or warmth in the area, call your doctor.



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