

Insulin Pump Safety during Surgery or Procedure

If you wear an insulin pump, it is important to plan how you will get insulin during the surgery or procedure. When you are under anesthesia or sedation, you will not be able to operate your insulin pump or make decisions about your blood sugar. You and your provider will decide if it is safe for you to wear your pump during your procedure.

- You may be able to wear your insulin pump during short procedures (2 to 3 hours) if you will not be exposed to: x-ray, CT scan, MRI or diathermy (electrically induced heat, which may be used during surgery).
- You must remove your pump for any procedure including x-ray, CT scan, MRI, or diathermy. Your health care team will give you insulin either through an IV or by injection with a syringe until you can replace your pump.

Why do I need an off pump plan?

Even if you expect to wear your insulin pump during your procedure, for safety, you will need an OFF PUMP PLAN prescribed by **your diabetes provider**. An off pump plan is a back-up plan that includes the type of insulin and how much to take by insulin syringe or pen when your pump is off.

Your OFF PUMP PLAN may include:

- Long-acting insulin like glargine or detemir to take the place of your basal rate insulin.
- Rapid-acting insulin like lispro or aspart to take for meal coverage and correction doses.

If you do not have an OFF PUMP PLAN, ask **your endocrinologist or your diabetes care provider** to prescribe one for you.

What should I bring when I come to the hospital?

- Bring a written copy of your OFF PUMP PLAN in case it is needed.
- Bring your extra pump supplies with you in case you need them while at the hospital. These include:
 - insulin
 - reservoirs
 - infusion sets
 - insertion device
 - skin prep
 - batteries
 - any other items needed for your pump
- Bring a list of your current pump settings including:
 - basal rates
 - meal bolus ratios
 - correction factor
 - insulin sensitivity factor
 - target blood sugar

If you wear your pump during the procedure:

- Make sure your infusion site is in a spot away from where the surgery will occur.
- Change your infusion site, tubing, and insulin the day before your procedure.

If you do not wear your pump during your procedure:

- You and your provider should make a plan about when to take off your insulin pump and start your OFF PUMP plan.
- Bring your OFF PUMP plan to the hospital.

- Make a plan with your loved one to keep your pump safe. Your health care team can secure your pump if you do not have a loved one with you.

You and your health care team will decide when it is safe to restart your pump. It may depend on whether you had sedating medicines, your nutrition status, steroid therapy after surgery, or other factors.