

Nurse controlled analgesia (NCA) pump



What is an NCA pump?

An NCA pump is a small machine that gives pain medicine (analgesia) to your child. The pump controls a syringe filled with pain medicine. Your child's doctor will choose which pain medicine is best for your child.

The pump can give your child pain medicine in 2 ways:

- The pump can give constant pain medicine.
- If your child is in pain, their nurse can push a button to tell the pump to give a small dose of pain medicine.

How does my child stay safe?

Your child's nurse will check your child often. The nurse will check:

- Your child's vital signs.
- Your child's heart rate and breathing rate.
- How often the button is pushed.
- How often the pump gives the pain medicine.

Why should my child use an NCA pump?

An NCA pump is for children who cannot push a button themselves. The pump lets your child get pain medicine when they need it, without waiting. Your child may not be able to push the button themselves due to:

- Their age
- Sedation
- Change in level of consciousness
- Developmental status

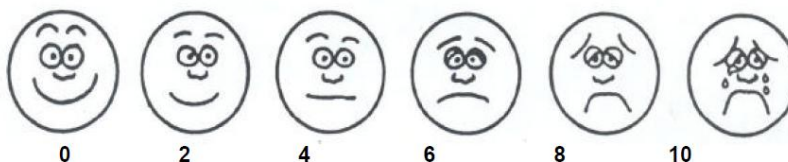
What is a pain scale?

Your child's nurse will use a pain scale to check your child's pain. The pain scale rates pain from 0 to 10 (0 is no pain and 10 is the worst possible pain). Our goal is to decrease your child's pain as much as possible. Pain scales can help how much pain your child is in when they cannot tell you about their pain themselves.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Nurse controlled analgesia (NCA) pump, continued

Faces Scale



FLACC Scale

Points	Face	Legs	Activity	Cry	Consolability
0	Smiling or relaxed	Relaxed	Lying quietly	Not crying	Content and relaxed
1	Occasional grimace	Squirming	Squirming and shifting back and forth	Moaning or whimpering	Reassured by touching and hugging at times and distractible
2	Clenched jaw and quivering chin	Kicking	Arched, rigid or jerking	Crying steadily or screaming	Difficult to console or comfort

How does the NCA pump work?

- The nurse can push the NCA pump button when your child is in pain or before a painful procedure. Then the pump gives pain medicine to your child. **Your child, you and other caregivers should never push the button on an NCA pump.**
- The medicine goes into your child's vein through their I.V. Then it goes into the bloodstream.
- The pump has a "lockout" period that prevents your child from getting another dose of medicine too soon, even if the button is pushed.
- Your child's nurse and other care team members will watch them closely for signs of sleepiness (too much pain medicine) or pain (not enough pain medicine). The doctor will make changes when needed.
- Please let your child's nurse know right away if you think your child's pain is not being well-controlled.

When will the nurse push the NCA button?

Your child's nurse may push the button when your child is awake and alert. Your child's nurse will never push the button when they are asleep. It is dangerous to give pain medicine while your child is asleep because it may cause breathing problems.

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Nurse controlled analgesia (NCA) pump, continued

Your child's nurse may push the button before or during a painful procedure. This may include:

- Moving or changing your child's position
- Mouth care
- Diaper changes
- Physical, occupational or speech therapy
- Other events known to cause pain for your child

When should I call the nurse?

Please let your child's nurse know **right away** if you notice side effects from the pain medicine, such as:

- Warm, flushed face
- Feeling too sleepy or groggy
- Is hard to wake up (over sedation)
- Upset stomach or vomiting (throwing up)
- Skin rash, itching or scratching
- Trouble having a bowel movement (constipation)
- Slowed breathing

Also tell your child's nurse **right away** if you think your child's pain is not being well-controlled.

The following sign will be hung with the pump. This makes sure your child's care team knows about the NCA pump.

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**This pump is currently being controlled by the
patient's nurse.**

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

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