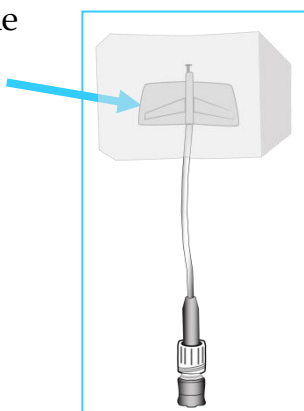
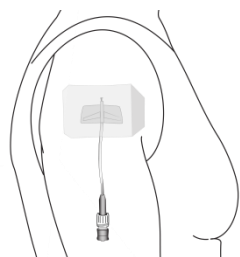


# Giving Medicines Using a Subcutaneous Butterfly

'Subcutaneous' means under the skin.

'Butterfly' refers to the shape of the wings.



Other names:

subcutaneous cannula,  
port, SC butterfly, or Sub-Q catheter

Each butterfly site can be used more than once, but can only be used for one medicine. If a person needs more than one medicine, they will have more than one butterfly site.

## Why use a subcutaneous butterfly?

- It can stay in place for a number of days, reducing the number of needle pokes.
- Allows the person to get medicine when they are not able to swallow.
- It is the best way for some medicines to get into the body.

The reason for giving each medicine is different. Your nurse or pharmacist can help you to understand why each medicine is given.

## Getting ready

- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Get the medicine syringe and an alcohol swab.
- Check the medicine label on the butterfly. Make sure it matches the label on the medicine syringe.
- Check the site where the butterfly enters the skin.
- Do not use the site if you notice any of the following:
  - redness
  - swelling
  - pain
  - leaking
  - bruising
  - bleeding
  - blood in the tubing

Tell your nurse about what you see and ask how to proceed.

If you have any questions or concerns about the medicines or using the subcutaneous butterfly, contact your healthcare team.

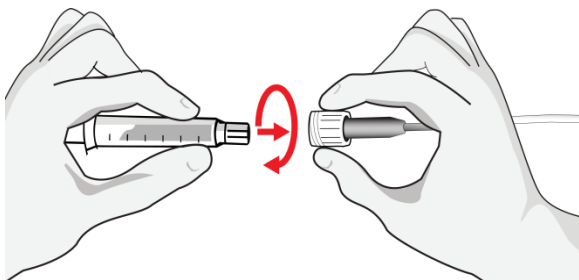
## Giving Medicines Using a Subcutaneous Butterfly - *continued*

### Giving the medicine

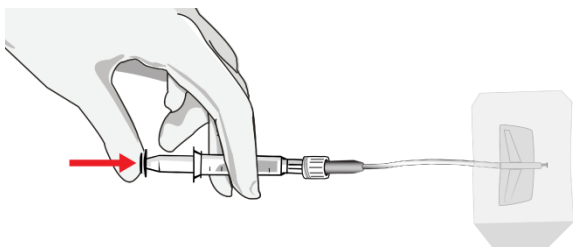
1. Open an alcohol swab.
2. Rub the end of the butterfly tubing with the alcohol swab.
3. Let the end dry for 30 to 40 seconds.
4. Remove the cap from the medicine syringe.

Keep the ends clean. Do not touch the tip of the syringe when removing the cap.

5. Hold the syringe in one hand.
6. Hold the end of the butterfly tubing with your other hand.
7. Push and twist the syringe onto the end of the butterfly. Turn until attached.



8. Gently and slowly push the plunger of the syringe to give the medicine.



9. If the medicine does not enter easily, do not force it. Contact your nurse.

If you see leaking or it hurts a lot as you give the medicine, stop and contact your nurse.

10. When all of the medicine is gone from the syringe, untwist the syringe from the end of the butterfly to remove.
11. Write down the name of the medicine, the date and time you gave it, and how well it worked.

### To safely store and throw away syringes

All medicine syringes should be labelled and stored in a safe and secure place (You might need to store some in the fridge or a dark place). Check with your nurse.

The medicine in the syringes can harm pets and children- even used syringes. Throw away used medicine syringes in a safe and secure garbage bag. Take any medicine filled syringes you no longer need to your local pharmacy for safe disposal.