

Flying with an Insulin Pump

Date/Time in pump

Keep your pump on local time until you reach your final destination.

When you arrive, change the pump time to match local time.

Pump settings and reports

Medtronic Carelink Settings report (page 5),

Diasend Settings report (under Insulin tab),

Ensure you have a current download report from either system

If using a Medtronic 640/670G and sensing, it will need to be put into 'flight mode'.

Airport Security

Do not put the insulin pump onto the bag security conveyer belt (in the trays that go through the scanner). The insulin pump can go through the normal security gate (not the revolving one) as this is only a metal detector.

The pump should be disconnected if security wish to use the hand held wand and also for the revolving body scanners.

Potential for air in line:

Check for air bubbles in pump line when ascending and descending during the flight. If there are air bubbles disconnect and prime them out before reconnecting. Alternatively, you can disconnect and suspend the pump while the plane is ascending and descending, and check the pump line before reconnecting.

Pump Failure:

In the event of pump failure, you will need revert to injected insulin.

Inject Novorapid / Humalog via pen or syringe every 4 hours until she can resite or reconnect to the pump. Give Total Daily Dose (TDD) divided by 6 (TDD÷6) every 4 hours + 2-3 serves of carbs. If you need further clinical advice p go to www.rch.org.au/diabetes. Contact your pump company regarding a replacement pump.

Line/site failure with blood ketone:

Hyperglycaemia, blood glucose levels persisting ≥ 15.0 mmol/L despite 2 corrections or blood ketones ≥ 0.6 mmol/L requires pen insulin and a cannula resite. Inject TDD ÷ 6 as Novorapid / Humalog via pen/syringe, and resite. If you cannot resite immediately you will have to continue to give Novorapid / Humalog 6 every 4 hours until you can resite.

Pump Supplies

Take your usual blood glucose and ketone testing strips and equipment, hypo food and pump supplies. Other equipment will include extra Novorapid / Humalog in case of pump failure. Medical equipment and supplies are taken as carry-on luggage, as you may require during in flight. Take double the amount of supplies you intend to use.

CONTACTS:

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