

MEL (Medical Equipment Library)

'One-stop shopping for pumps'



When you come into the hospital at some point you are going to be given a cannula and maybe some fluids through that cannula.

Whilst the staff are looking after you, you may require some drugs to be given to you. If these drugs have to be given over 10 minutes or 24-hours, the staff will need to use a medical device called an infusion device or syringe pump to give these drugs.

The demand for these devices varies over time and from ward to ward, so a central area to store these medical devices was established, which is called MEL (Medical Equipment Library). MEL is staffed from 8:00am until 8:00pm and after hours the porters provide excellent support for devices to be delivered to the wards. This allows for a 24-hour service, seven-days-a-week ...

So as a patient, if you require one of these devices then the ward staff will phone the Estates Help Desk and request the type of device required. This request is passed onto MEL. MEL staff arrange for the device to be delivered to the requesting ward within 30 minutes of placing the request. After hours the porters arrange for the delivery.

The device will stay with the patient until they no longer need it. At that point the ward staff will contact Estates and arrange for the device to be returned to MEL.

Before the device is made available to the wards again it is processed – we ensure that the device has been cleaned properly, is in good working order and that they are regularly serviced to reduce breakdowns.

The Medical Equipment Library has proved to be of great benefit in ensuring that the patient gets the device they need when they need it, and this is only possible because of the team work provided by many services.



MEL collection trolley