

Subcutaneous treprostinil (Remodulin®)

Description

Subcutaneous (sub-Q) treprostinil is a potent medication used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, a type of high blood pressure in the lungs that affects heart function. Sub-Q treprostinil works by causing the blood vessels in the lungs to relax, resulting in a decrease in pressure and improvement in heart function.

How It Is Administered

Sub-Q treprostinil is delivered as a continuous infusion through a small plastic tube underneath the skin, which is attached to a thin line that is then attached to a syringe located within the pump. The infusion is controlled by a small pump called a CADD MS3® (about the size of a pager) that delivers the medication in small amounts continuously. The pump can fit easily in a pant pocket, be clipped to a belt or put into a fanny pack or purse.

Quick Emergency Information:

Interruptions or changes in subcutaneous treprostinil delivery can be life threatening.

- **NEVER** manipulate your student's line or pump.
- If your student's line falls out or becomes disconnected, call 911.
- If your student's pump is alarming, they will need to address it **immediately**.
- If the pump is stopped and the student becomes symptomatic (chest pain, difficulty breathing, dizziness, appears blue, fainting or seizures) call 911.
- Notify parent if the bandage on the catheter gets wet, is leaking liquid or is falling off.

See Details in "What to Do in an Emergency"

It is critical that this medication remain connected and continuously delivered. The pump should NEVER be stopped or removed and the pump rate should NEVER be altered.

Infusion Pump and Alarms

The CADD MS3® pump will alarm if the infusion has been interrupted or there is a malfunction of the pump (both quite rare). The alarms should NEVER be ignored. **The parent will review with the school staff how they would like alarms handled.** Many patients are able to solve simple issues such as an accidental kink in the tubing, but if they are not able to address the issue they may need your help to get them emergency services.

Back-up supplies

Since sub-Q treprostinil needs to be delivered continuously, patients are required to keep a back-up pump, vial of medication, syringe, line and battery close to them at all times. These supplies are generally stored in the nurse's office.

Side Effects

Side effects may vary depending upon the patient and the dose of sub-Q treprostinil. Common side effects include:

- ◆ Jaw pain
- ◆ Headache
- ◆ Diarrhea
- ◆ Nausea
- ◆ Joint/muscle aches
- ◆ Flushing
- ◆ Loss of appetite
- ◆ Vomiting
- ◆ Dizziness
- ◆ Sweating

A list of side effects experienced by the student and treatments for these side effects are listed below.

Student's Side Effects and Treatments

What to Do in an Emergency

The most dangerous situation for your student on sub-Q treprostinil would be the inability to deliver the medication. The student or parent should be able to replace the delivery system if needed. **CALL 911** if your student complains of or exhibits any of the following symptoms:

- ◆ Chest pain
- ◆ Difficulty breathing/stops breathing (may require CPR until help arrives)
- ◆ Dizziness or lightheadedness
- ◆ Appears blue (lips, fingers etc.)
- ◆ Passes out (may require CPR until help arrives)
- ◆ Has a seizure (protect the student from the environment, may require CPR until help arrives)

If you do not have a phone in your classroom, send another student to the office to get help. **DO NOT leave your student unattended.** After calling 911, call the parent. When emergency help arrives, notify the paramedics of the student's medical condition.