

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Medical Services Division
District Nursing Services Branch

Guidelines for School Nurse

INTRATHECAL BACLOFEN THERAPY

OVERVIEW

Intrathecal Baclofen (ITB) Therapy is used in the treatment of spasticity from cerebral palsy or brain injury. The Medtronic SynchroMed System is used to deliver Lioresal Intrathecal (baclofen injection). The medication works by relaxing tight or stiff muscles.

SYNCHROMED PUMP

The SynchroMed Pump, a round disk one inch thick and three inches in diameter, is placed one inch below the skin near the waistline. A catheter attached to the pump delivers Lioresal Intrathecal to the spinal cord. A computer, called a programmer, is placed above the skin over the pump. The physician programs the pump through this computer.

SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects include nausea, vomiting, headache, drowsiness, and dizziness. An overdose could lead to breathing problems, loss of consciousness and coma.

PRECAUTIONS

SynchroMed Pumps should not be near powerful magnets or high-current industrial equipment. Some medical tests or treatments may affect the pump. It is safe to use household appliances and electronic devices.

GUIDELINES

- Have parent/guardian sign Release of Medical Information from student's healthcare provider.
 - Request specific information regarding SynchroMed Pump.
 - Request procedure to be followed if side effects occur. (Call Paramedics for breathing problems or loss of consciousness).
 - Request instructions regarding activities.
- Keep parent's/guardian's phone numbers readily available (nurse/office).
- Orient student's teachers, classroom assistants and yard-duty staff regarding side effects.