



Information for You from Your Health Care Team

Nurse Controlled Analgesia (NCA)

What Is Nurse Controlled Analgesia (NCA)?

Analgesia means relief of pain. After your child's operation or injury, the provider (Doctor or Nurse Practitioner) may order NCA for pain control. A special pump called a Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) pump is used. This pump allows the nurse to give medicine to your child for pain relief by pushing a button connected to the pump. NCA is used for patients who are very young, developmentally delayed, or unable to push the button for themselves.

How does Nurse Controlled Analgesia work ?

- Medicine that has been ordered by your child's provider is placed in a small bag that is connected to the PCA pump.
- The pump connects to your child's IV tube. When the nurse pushes the button medicine can be sent from the small bag into your child's bloodstream.
- Your child's pain level will be checked often and changes in the dose of medicine will be made as needed.
- A constant dose of pain medicine may also be given in addition to the doses that are given when the nurse pushes the button on the pump if needed to control your child's pain

What are the advantages of nurse controlled analgesia?

- Quick relief of pain.
- No need for injections (shots).
- NCA allows the nurse to quickly respond to your child's pain needs.

Is this type of pain control safe?

- The pump is set to deliver the amount of medicine ordered by your child's provider. The total number of doses is kept within a safe limit.
- Only a nurse or doctor is allowed to push the dose button.
- **If someone other than the doctor or nurses pushes the button the NCA will be removed and other pain control methods will be ordered.**

How can you tell if the nurse controlled analgesia is working?

- See Pain Assessment Tools handout.

Speak up at any time if you have questions or concerns