Answers to FAQ from Patients using Insulin Pumps

1. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PUMP ISN'T WORKING?

When to suspect a pump site failure:	If you suspect a problem:	Change site immediately If:
BG >300 and not dropping for more than 3 hours	Check your blood sugar AND ketones	High BG not responding to corrections
Ketones are positive	Give a correction using your pen or syringe (NOT the pump)	Moderate or large ketones
Repeated corrections are not working	Change your pump site fully (set/pod, tubing, insulin)	Pump delivery alarms occur
Site red, painful, wet, or loose	Recheck BG in 1–2 hours	Site looks irritated, leaking, or loose
Pump occlusion/no-delivery alarms		Pod/set pulled off or bumped
Insulin smell or leakage		
Kinked/disconnected tubing		
*****WHEN IN DOUBT, CHANGE IT OUT*****		

2. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY PUMP HAS BEEN OFF FOR MORE THAN 3 HOURS (FOR EXAMPLE, IF IT STOPS WORKING OVERNIGHT)?

a. Check ketones
b. Give correction with pen or syringe (see #4 for how to calculate)
c. Restart pump

3. WHAT IS MY BACK UP PLAN IF MY PUMP ISN'T WORKING?

- If you will be without your pump overnight, you should take ____ units of _____ (long-acting insulin) once a day and give every 24 hours until pump is back on. Use your correction factor and carb ratio (below) to calculate meal and correction insulin.

• **My long-acting insulin dose:**	___ units once daily
• **My correction factor:**	
• **My carb ratio:**	
• **My target:**	

4. HOW DO I CALCULATE A RAPID ACTING INSULIN DOSE?

Step 1:



Current blood sugar | Target blood sugar | Amount to correct | Correction factor | **Correction bolus**

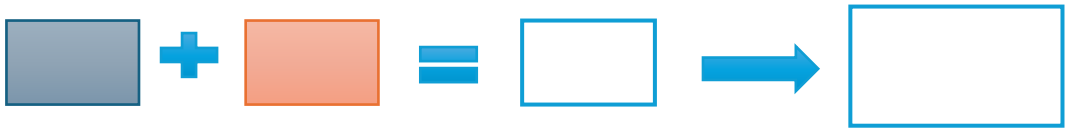
Step 2:

**Always calculate Carbohydrate Bolus when eating Carbs



Total grams carbohydrat | Carbohydrate Ratio | **Carbohydrate bolus**

Step 3: Add step 1 and step 2



Correction bolus | **Carbohydrate bolus** | **Total bolus Insulin dose** | **Injection dose (rounded to nearest whole or half unit)**

*You can also use your calculator app

*Only give a correction bolus if it has been at least 3 hours since last rapid-acting insulin **AND** current blood sugar is MORE THAN target blood sugar.

5. WHAT IF I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW TO CHANGE MY PUMP SETTINGS?

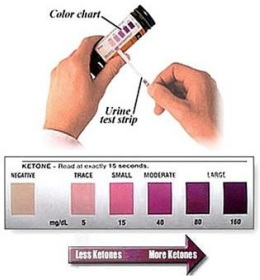
Pump companies can help with updating settings that your provider has given you 24/7

OMNIPOD 800-591-3455 (Follow up education and settings change sessions can be scheduled with Kalya Wenner, RD, CDCES: https:tinyurl.com/Omnipodhelpme)

Tandem 877-801-6901

If your blood sugar is more than 300 mg/dL & YOU DON'T KNOW WHY: CHECK YOUR KETONES! WHEN IN DOUBT, CHANGE IT OUT!

DKA (diabetic ketoacidosis) can happen faster on an insulin pump compared to injections. Go to the Emergency Room right away for vomiting that won't stop, trouble breathing, slurred speech, confusion, or moderate/large ketones that don't improve.



KETONE LEVELS	ACTION
Negative, Trace, or Small 	**<u>Negative, Trace, or Small</u>** 1. Give insulin to correct the high blood sugar **through your insulin pump**. 2. If your blood sugar **doesn't come down after 2 hours:** • Recheck Ketones • **Change your pump site** • Give another correction with the new pump site
Moderate to Large 	**<u>Moderate to Large: IMMEDIATE ACTION!</u>** 1. Inject a fast-acting insulin with a **SYRINGE or PEN** (do not use the pump for this dose): 2. **Change your pump site immediately!** 3. **Recheck ketones** in 2 hours • If ketones are now negative, trace, or small, follow the plan above • If ketones are still moderate or large, call the Diabetes Team: **202-476-5000**

Call Your Diabetes Team If:

• Vomiting or cannot keep fluids down	• BG stays >300 despite injections
• Large or persistent ketones	• You aren't sure if the site is working

Daytime M-F: 202-476-2121, ext 5; Nights/Weekends: 202-476-5000, ask for diabetes doc