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Case Studies

## Swedish Medical Center 20 Years of Syringe Infusion Experience

Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, Washington adopted syringe infusion as their primary intermittent small-volume parenteral drug system in 1984. Since then, about 4 million doses have been prepared by the pharmacy department. Almost 20 years later, syringe infusion is still saving the system money, improving their clinical outcomes and making their nurses more productive.

*The Swedish System includes 697 licensed beds on the main First Hill campus, 163 beds at its Ballard campus and 436 beds on the medical center's Providence campus, as well as a large Home Care Services division. Internationally recognized specialties there include many types of surgery, cancer treatment through the Seattle Cancer Institute, and cardiac care via the Swedish Heart Institute. Swedish is affiliated with more than 2,000 physicians representing every medical and surgical specialty and sub-specialty. Last year, more than 39,000 surgical procedures were completed at Swedish.*

Syringe infusion has been an ideal match for the many complex medical cases found in the Swedish system. In particular, reducing fluid volumes was especially vital for the thousands of fluid-restricted patients in cardiac care, intensive care and for many of the oncology and surgery areas.

Nurses have always appreciated syringe infusion for its ability to simplify dose administration, provide consistent results and use less of their bedside time than minibags. These benefits hold true for both inpatient and outpatient care settings.

The heart of a successful syringe infusion program has always been the highly productive pharmacy. Five years ago, Swedish chose Cardinal Health to manage their pharmacies. David West, RPh has worked at Swedish since 1977 and is now the System Director of Pharmacy for all three Swedish pharmacies.

According to West, "Cardinal Healthcare has always supported systems that provide higher quality services for less cost. Syringe infusion does just that and some divisions of Cardinal have a long history of syringe infusion advocacy." He also notes that, "It's hard to estimate exactly how many millions of hard dollars that have been saved in eliminating minibag costs and proprietary upcharges and reducing drug waste. Syringe infusion has been with us so long, that at Swedish we just consider it the standard of care."

This example, involving Swedish Medical Center, demonstrates that syringe infusion can be effective in small, medium and large settings, and over the course of many years. For more information about Swedish Medical Center, visit [www.swedish.org](http://www.swedish.org). To learn more about Cardinal Health, visit [www.cardinalpps.com](http://www.cardinalpps.com). For information on Baxa products for syringe infusion, contact Customer Service at 800.567.BAXA (2292) or visit [www.baxa.com](http://www.baxa.com).

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