

# Bags for Syringe Drivers.



## What is a Syringe Driver?

A syringe driver is a battery operated pump, about the size of a pencil case, which is used to administer a continuous dose of medication by a subcutaneous infusion i.e. below the skin. This is done via a narrow tube and therefore the driver cannot be put down as it is attached to the patient. It is mainly used for pain relief in palliative care or to provide anti-nauseous drugs with chemotherapy.

## The Story so far....

It was a tiny notice in a fabric shop back in 2011 that caught my eye -

'Macmillan Nurses at the Liverpool Women's Hospital are looking for people interested in sewing to make bags for their patients who use syringe drivers.'

I rang up to find out exactly what was needed and made a sample bag. This was approved and I began to make up kits from fabric donated by a local interior design company. The kits were then taken to a nearby primary school and the children were shown how to make the bags using a sewing machine. We put labels on each bag saying 'Handmade by ... (child's first name)' and they were delivered to the Macmillan Nurses.

The bags are made using washable fabric and are reversible. The response from the patients and hospital staff has been amazing. The constant feedback is that the bags raise a smile and lift spirits. Practically of course, the bags are of tremendous value as it means that transfers, using the bathroom and generally getting about is made much easier.

Each bag is donated to one person. They are not transferable due to the possibility of cross infection. Sadly, this means there is a constant demand. Syringe drivers are used in many hospitals and hospices throughout the world. Since I started the project over 25,000 bags have been made and donated.

In 2012 I set up a website so that anyone wishing to make and donate bags could download free instructions and information. This meant that the project became national and now I spend a lot of time matching volunteer sewers with their local hospital or hospice.

If you wish to get involved it is best to decide where you want to donate your bags. Making for Charity can help find contact details, provide free starter packs and information. The website has downloadable instructions in PDF format and information on other projects.

If you have any queries please contact me on [julie@makingforcharity.com](mailto:julie@makingforcharity.com)



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