

### Intrathecal Baclofen (ITB) Therapy

ITB therapy sends a medicine called baclofen into the fluid around your spinal cord (the intrathecal space). It uses a small pump and a thin tube (catheter) placed inside your body.

This therapy is used to help people with **very strong muscle stiffness and spasms** that do not get better with pills. By delivering the medicine straight to your spinal cord, the therapy can give better relief and cause **fewer side effects** than medicine taken by mouth.

### Continuing Oral Baclofen after Surgery

Once the ITB dose is working well, your care team helps you slowly lower and stop the baclofen pills. It is important **not to stop the pills suddenly, as this can cause withdrawal symptoms**, even if you are on ITB therapy.

You should keep baclofen pills on hand in case they are needed to help manage ITB withdrawal, even after your ITB dose is working well.

### ✓ Your Role as a Patient or Caregiver

- Never miss a refill appointment. Your body needs baclofen to be delivered continuously.
- Learn the signs of **withdrawal** (not enough medicine) and **overdose** (too much medicine).
- Watch for any unusual symptoms and tell your care team right away.

### Why Monitoring is Important

ITB therapy is safe and works well, but problems can happen if the:

- Pump malfunctions (does not work properly)
- Tube (catheter) is blocked or comes loose
- Baclofen dose is too high or too low

These problems can cause too much or too little baclofen in your body, which can be **life-threatening if not treated quickly. Go to the nearest Emergency Department right away if you have symptoms of either.**

### Signs of Baclofen Withdrawal

Withdrawal can happen if the medicine stops being delivered. Symptoms may start slowly but can get worse quickly.

- Increased or sudden muscle stiffness/spasms
- Itching without a rash
- Fever
- Confusion or hallucinations (seeing things that are not there)
- Increased heart rate
- Sweating
- Seizures
- Loss of consciousness
- Trouble breathing

### Signs of Baclofen Overdose

Toxicity can occur if the pump delivers too much baclofen.


- Drowsiness or extreme sleepiness
- Dizziness
- Weakness or reduced muscle tone (weak muscles)
- Slow or shallow breathing
- Confusion
- Low blood pressure
- Slurred speech
- Loss of consciousness

### Contact Information

Please contact your neuromodulation clinic **as soon as possible** if you notice:

- Pump alarm or beeping sounds
- Redness, swelling, or pain at the pump or catheter site
- Increased muscle tightness (spasticity)
- Mild drowsiness (sleepiness) or new confusion
- Concerns about dosing or refills
- Missed pump refill appointment


#### Regina General Hospital Neuromodulation Clinic

 306-766-3587

 Monday to Friday 07:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed stats)

#### Saskatoon Royal University Hospital

##### Neuromodulation Clinic

 306-655-0952

 Monday to Friday 08:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed stats)

