

What makes a “smart” infusion pump smart?

While many infusion pumps have *some* characteristics of smart pumps, certain infusion pumps are smarter than others! These are the official smart pumps – for lack of a better term, we will call them the “A” Team. The following smart pumps are currently available in the infusion pump market:

The “A” Team

Alaris Medley System, with Guardrails software
B. Braun Outlook, with DoseGuard software
Baxter Colleague, with Guardian software
Hospira/Abbott Plum A+, with MedNet
Medfusion 3500
Sigma Spectrum
Smiths Solis

A pump must have all of the following characteristics to be defined as a “smart” pump:

Drug Library - your facility loads your own drug infusion parameters (called “profiles”) and performance characteristics such as maximum rates and pressures, with the help from an on-site manufacturer rep
∞ Different profiles can be set to run for different patient care areas (e.g., adult ICU, NICU) – this allows the same pump to be programmed for different, patient-appropriate drug concentrations and delivery rates

Alerts - if an infusion you program is outside the profile parameters; the pump gives you a “hard” or “soft” alert based on the type of medication and patient care area

∞ Soft alerts allow you to override any alarm to begin at the current settings. Your facility can require a verbal verification with a physician or pharmacist before proceeding.
∞ Hard alerts require you to reprogram the pump with settings that are within your facility’s parameters.

Alert Log - includes the time, date, drug, concentration, infusion rate and your action (override or reprogram)

Free Flow Protection

While the following pumps have *some* smart pump characteristics, they lack one or more components that would move them to the A Team.

The “B” Team

Alaris 7130 and 7230, Signature Series
Alaris Medsystem III
B. Braun Outlook (without DoseGuard software)
Baxter Colleague (without Guardian software)
Hospira/Abbott Plum A+ (without MedNet software)
Medfusion 2010i
Sigma 8000, some versions

If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-658-5582.