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## BACKGROUNDER

# **PARADIGM™ INSULIN INFUSION PUMPS**

## **What is the Paradigm pump?**

The Paradigm is the smallest full-featured insulin pump available on the market, and can help diabetes patients maintain tight control of their blood sugar (glucose) levels. Maintaining tight glucose control can improve overall health, reduce long-term complications and prolong life for many patients. In fact, insulin pumps can replace insulin injections, and are known to provide tighter glucose control than any other insulin delivery method for many diabetes patients. By using an insulin pump, patients can free themselves from rigid injection and meal schedules.

## **How does the Paradigm pump work?**

The Paradigm insulin infusion pump introduces *E-Z Path Programming*®, a simplified and intuitive menu system, making pump therapy easier to teach, learn and use. The Paradigm utilises an affordable AAA alkaline battery. Its small size makes it discreet and comfortable to wear. It automatically conducts more than 6 million safety checks per day and contains a programming block option to limit tampering by children. When used with faster-acting insulin, the Paradigm provides more predictable and accurate insulin delivery, allowing patients to eat what they want, when they want, by manually adjusting their insulin infusion.

The Paradigm pump expands Medtronic MiniMed's product portfolio by offering its customers two pump platforms — the Paradigm and the Model 508. The Model 508 has a long history of safety, reliability and convenience. The Paradigm further builds on this tradition with added convenience, performance features and benefits. Both pumps utilise a small, hand-held remote programmer, which enables diabetes patients to program insulin delivery without accessing the pump.

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## **Tight Glucose Control**

The Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT), a landmark 10-year study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, demonstrated conclusively that tight glucose control can reduce the risk of diabetes-related eye disease up to 76 per cent, nerve disease up to 60 per cent and kidney complications up to 56 per cent.

## **Diabetes and Implications**

Diabetes is reaching epidemic proportions. Worldwide, the number of cases is expected to double to 370 million by 2030. Poor diabetes management can lead to severe complications and higher medical costs.

In people with diabetes, the body is prevented from properly using energy from food. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the pancreas is unable to produce insulin. To survive, a person must administer insulin using injections or an insulin pump. The average life expectancy for a type 1 diabetes patient is 15 years less than that of the general population. Type 2 diabetes results from the body's inability to make enough, or properly use, insulin. Insulin is a hormone that is needed to move glucose from the bloodstream into the body's cells, where it is then converted into energy. Managed inadequately over a long period of time, diabetes can lead to blindness, kidney failure and amputation. In addition, it is a major factor in both impotence and cardiovascular disease.

Medtronic MiniMed ([www.minimed.com](http://www.minimed.com)) designs, develops, manufactures and markets advanced infusion systems with a primary emphasis on the intensive management of diabetes. The company's products include external pumps, related disposables and a continuous glucose monitoring system. Medtronic, Inc. ([www.medtronic.com](http://www.medtronic.com)), headquartered in Minneapolis, is the world's leading medical technology company, providing lifelong solutions for people with chronic disease.