

## Sutureless Connector ('SC') Intrathecal Catheters (Models 8709SC, 8731SC, 8596SC, 8578)

### Recommendations for Implant Techniques

The following 4 steps reinforce recommended implant techniques identified in the product labeling that are important in mitigating the potential for catheter occlusions and disconnections.

1. Verify **CSF backflow** through the catheter
2. Ensure **Alignment** of sutureless connector to the Pump
3. **Snap** the sutureless connector into place
4. **Tug** and **Rotate** to test the connection

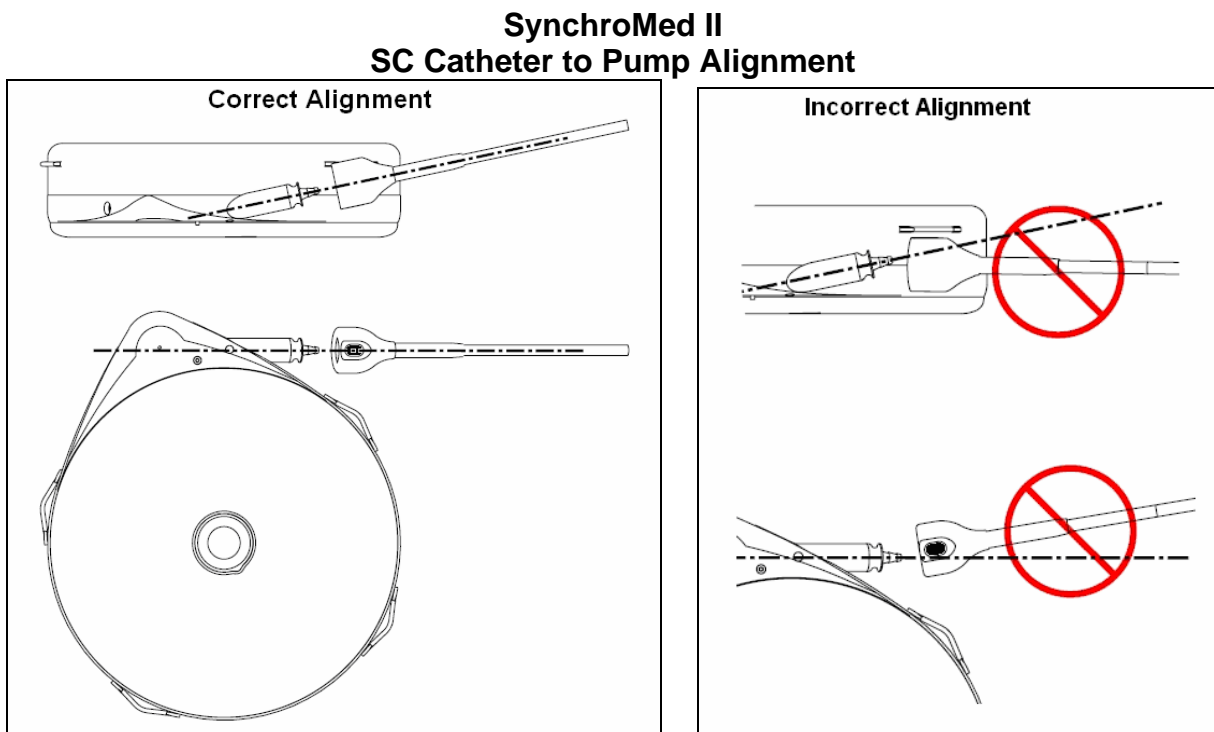
#### 1. Verify CSF backflow through the catheter

Prior to connection of the catheter to the pump, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) backflow should be confirmed through observation.

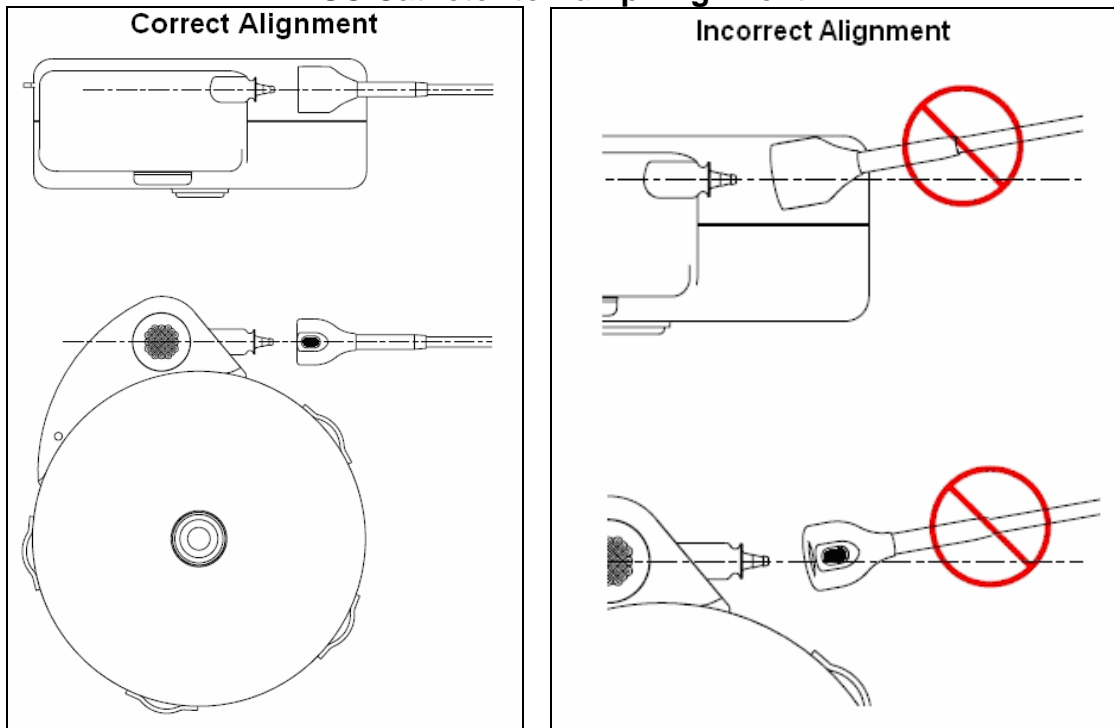
#### 2. Ensure Alignment of sutureless connector to the Pump

Proper alignment and full engagement of the sutureless pump connector to the catheter port on the pump during attachment is critical in ensuring the catheter is properly and completely connected to the pump.

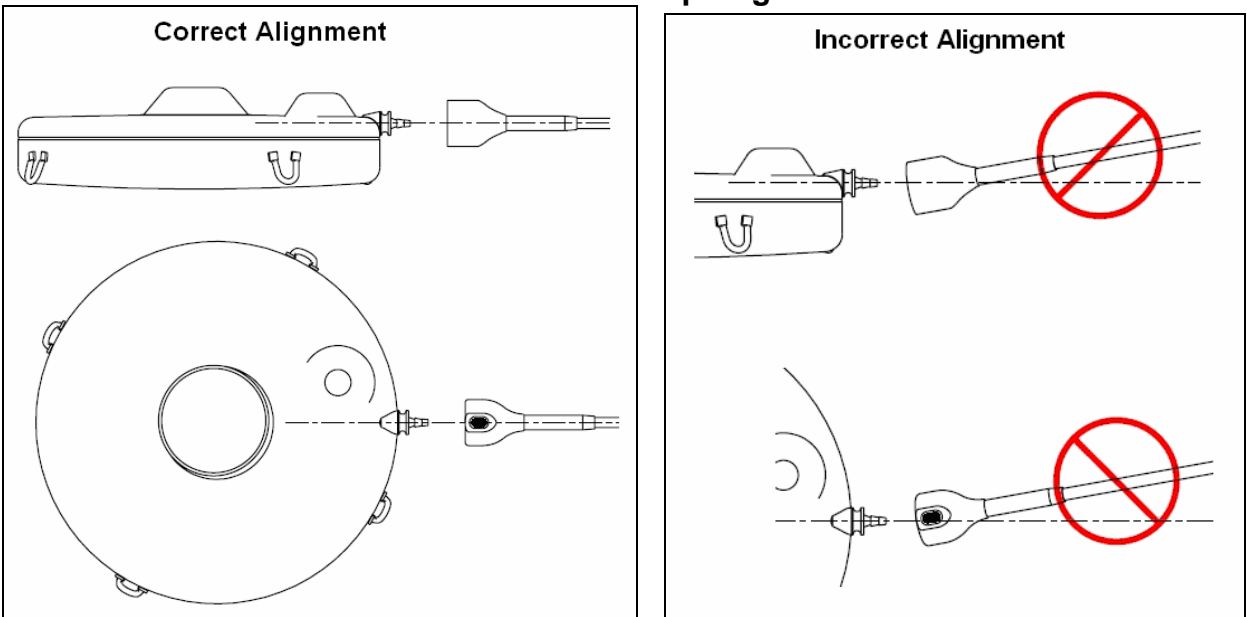
- At the pump pocket site, position the catheter port of the pump **in line** with the opening of the sutureless pump connector. The following figures show correct and incorrect catheter alignment with reference to lateral and top views of Medtronic infusion pumps.



### SynchroMed EL SC Catheter to Pump Alignment



### IsoMed SC Catheter to Pump Alignment



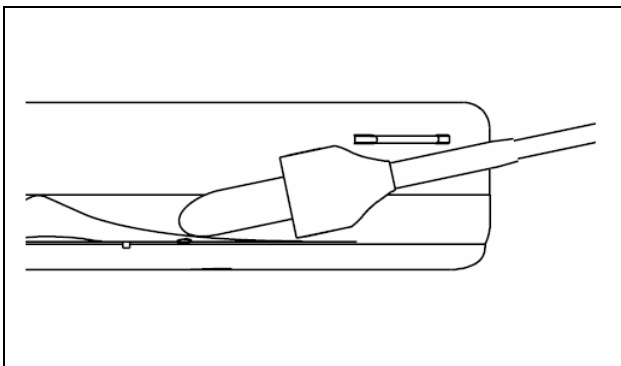
- Exercise care when connecting the catheter or pump connector to metal connectors or fittings. These can cut or puncture the catheter or pump connector.

### **3. Attaching the sutureless connector to the pump – snap the SC into place**

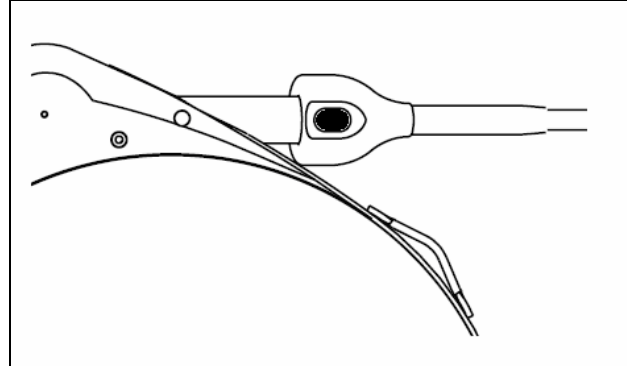
The sutureless pump connector snaps into place providing tactile and audible indication of full connection.

- There are two recommended methods for attaching the sutureless pump connector to the pump.
  - Method 1:
    - **Firmly** press the sutureless pump connector onto the catheter port until the connector fully covers the catheter port.
    - The connector **snaps** into place.
  - Method 2:
    - Firmly squeeze precisely on the oval marks of the sutureless pump connector.
    - While squeezing, **carefully** press the sutureless pump connector onto the catheter port until the connector fully covers the catheter port.
    - The connector **snaps** into place.
- The sutureless pump connector fully covers the catheter port as depicted below. The following images show a fully connected catheter with reference to lateral and top views of a Medtronic SynchroMed II pump.

**Lateral View of Complete Connection**

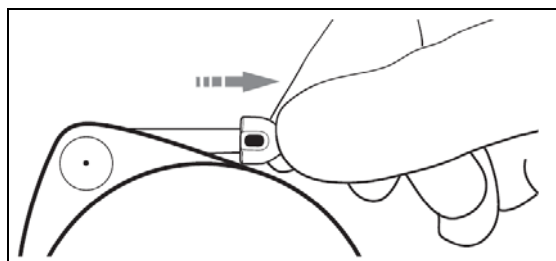


**Top View of Complete Connection**

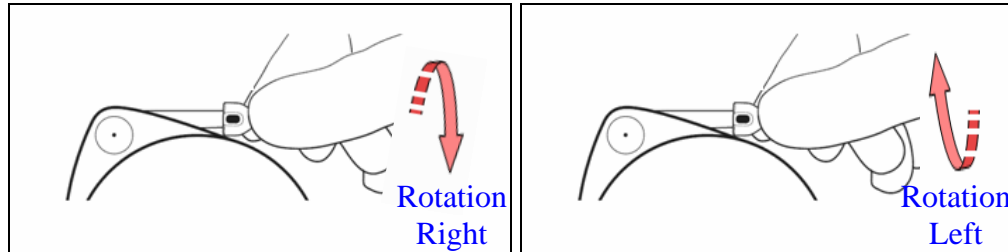


### **4. Tug and Rotate the sutureless connector to verify the sutureless connector is properly attached to the pump**

- Check that the sutureless pump connector is properly attached by using the following method:
  - Grasp the **tapered portion** of the sutureless pump connector.
  - **Tug** as if to remove the connector from the pump. The connector should feel firmly attached.



- **Rotate** the sutureless pump connector at least 90° to the right and to the left. Note: the catheter **should not** appear to 'wobble' when rotated. The catheter port should not be visible from any position.



- If the sutureless pump connector does not feel firmly attached, **do not** use additional methods to secure the connector. **Remove** the connector and reattach it to the pump beginning with alignment of the sutureless pump connector with the pump catheter port.