

## IV Medicine at Home: IV Push Method

Patient Name : \_\_\_\_\_ MRN \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

### Medication Information

Name of Medication: \_\_\_\_\_ Dose: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication stable at room temperature for: \_\_\_\_\_

Give medication every \_\_\_\_\_ hours

Times to give medication:

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### Normal saline flush solution

Amount to give: \_\_\_\_\_ ml

When to give it:

☐ before and after giving the medication

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### Heparin flush solution

Solution: \_\_\_\_\_ units/ml

Amount to give: \_\_\_\_\_ ml

When to give it:

☐ After giving the medication and normal saline flush

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## Preventing infection

It is very important to prevent infection. Failure to do so might require removal of the central venous catheter. The nurse will show you how to keep your supplies clean, so no germs will enter the catheter and cause an infection.

*Cleanliness* is a must!

Each time you handle supplies or perform a procedure, do the following steps:

1. Prepare a clean work space area by cleaning a solid surface with household cleanser.
2. Clean hands well, using one of the following methods:
  - Use an alcohol hand sanitizer according to directions.
  - If hands are dirty or alcohol hand sanitizer is not available, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap, rubbing all surfaces briskly, including fingernails. Use a paper towel or clean hand towel to dry your hands, and then use the towel to turn off the faucet.
3. Before each time you flush or attach a new syringe/tubing to the injection cap, scrub the injection cap for 15 seconds with a fresh chlorhexidine wipe, using friction. Let it dry completely. Do not fan or blow on it.

## Getting ready

1. Make sure the medication is at room temperature
  - Remove the medication from the refrigerator as directed. Your homecare nurse will discuss with you how early this should be removed to make sure it is safe to use.
  - Do not use a microwave, oven, or water to warm.
2. Check the label on the syringe and verify:
  - Child's name
  - Medication/Dose
  - Expiration date

## Connecting Medication/Fluids to Patient

### Review of S.A.S.H. method:

1. Flush with normal **S**aline
2. **A**dminister medication or fluid
3. Flush with normal **S**aline
4. Flush with **H**eparin



**Note:** Every time you flush the IV line with normal saline or heparin, use the “push-and-pause” method: push a little solution, then pause for 1 to 2 seconds, then push a little more, pause, and so on. This method cleans the inside of the IV line. Your home care nurse will show you how to do this.

1. Gather supplies:
  - chlorhexidine wipes
  - normal saline syringes or dextrose solution syringes (2)
  - heparin syringe
  - IV medicine/fluids you will be giving
  - non-sterile gloves
  - disinfectant cap
2. Wash hands and put on non-sterile gloves. Put supplies in order of use on the work surface.
3. Check the labels of the normal saline and heparin syringes, and any other medicines or fluids before giving them. Make sure they

- A medicine is good until the end of the day on the day it expires. Throw it away sooner if you see sediment in it or if you question its cleanliness. If you do throw a medicine away, be sure to call the home care pharmacy for a replacement dose.

#### **Preparing pre-filled syringes:**

**Saline and Heparin** syringes have an air bubble in them. With the tip cap on, press the syringe rod forward until it “pops.” Remove the cap, being careful not to touch the inside of the cap. Point the syringe tip up and gently squirt out the air bubble. Replace the cap.

4. Remove disinfectant cap **OR** if disinfectant cap not in place, scrub the injection cap with a chlorhexidine wipe for 15 seconds and let it dry completely.
5. Attach normal saline syringe tip into the injection cap.
6. Unclamp the catheter.
7. Flush with normal saline using the push-and-pause method. When syringe is empty, remove it from the injection cap.
8. If you are not giving medicines at this time, go to step 1 of the next section
9. If you are giving medicines, scrub injection cap with a new chlorhexidine wipe for 15 seconds and let it dry completely.
10. Connect the IV tubing to the patient’s IV line.
11. Open all clamps.
12. Press the desired start button (“Normal”, “Slow”, or “Extra-Slow”) to begin the infusion. A blinking green light shows that the pump is running.
13. Put the ESP pump on a nearby surface.

#### **At end of infusion or when medication complete:**

1. Disconnect the tubing from the injection cap.
2. Scrub the injection cap with a new chlorhexidine wipe for 15 seconds and let it dry completely.
3. Attach normal saline syringe or dextrose solution syringe and flush using the push-and- pause method. When syringe is empty, remove it from the injection cap.
4. Scrub the injection cap with a new chlorhexidine wipe 15 seconds and let it dry completely.
5. Attach heparin syringe and flush using the push-and-pause method. When syringe is empty, remove it from the injection cap.
6. Clamp the line.
7. Apply disinfectant cap to injection cap.

#### **Questions?**

If you have any questions, please call your home care nurse.

Reviewed by Home Care & Home Care Pharmacy 11/2024.