

Administering a “Gravity Infusion”

Introduction

Your infusion will be given by connecting the intravenous (IV) container/bag, and tubing, to your intravenous (IV) catheter. Once the tubing is open, gravity will allow the medication to drip into the IV catheter. Follow these steps to correctly use “gravity infusion” technique.

Supplies

- IV container/bag
- IV pole (if applicable)
- IV tubing (sometimes called “administration set”)
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile protective cap (if applicable; intermittent infusions within the same 24 hour period)
- Watch with second hand or “seconds timer”
- Soap or alcohol based gel for hand washing

Steps

1. Remove your medication from the refrigerator 4-6 hours before you need to use it, or as directed by your home care nurse. Allow to warm to room temperature. Check the medication label to assure that it has your name and instructions.
2. Prepare a clean working area.
3. Assemble your supplies.
4. Wash your hands as taught by your home care nurse.
5. Close the clamp on the IV tubing, and remove the protective cover from the spike.
6. Remove the protective cover from the spike port of the IV bag/container.
7. Insert the spike into the IV bag/container. Hang the container on IV pole.
8. Squeeze the drip chamber until it is half-full, then slowly open the clamp. Allow the medication to fill the IV tubing. Avoid touching the open end of the IV tubing. Close the clamp.
9. Use an alcohol wipe to clean the end of your needleless connector.
10. Proceed with pre-infusion flushing. (See Patient Education: “Flushing Your Catheter.”)

11. Remove the cover from the end of the IV tubing.
12. Attach the IV tubing to the needleless connector by applying pressure on the device with the tubing end, and twisting clockwise. The tubing should become firmly locked onto the needle-free device.
13. Open the clamp until the medication is dripping at the rate taught by your nurse.
14. Complete the infusion.
15. Remove the IV tubing from the needle-free device by turning counter clockwise. Cover the end of the IV tubing with a sterile "dead end" cap if you will be re-using the same tubing for the next infusion dose.
16. Proceed with post-infusion flushing procedure. (See Patient Education: "Flushing Your Catheter".)

Notes and Instructions

Never force solution through your catheter. If it is hard to flush, or infusion is running slow, notify your home health nurse for help.