

Using Medication Vials

Introduction

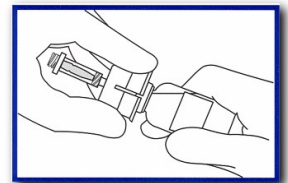
Your home care nurse will give you detailed instructions on how to administer your intravenous (IV) therapy. This teaching sheet is intended to provide “reminders” and should be used in **addition** to detailed demonstration and instruction.

Your infusion therapy might include withdrawing medication from a vial and injecting the medication into your catheter, or into another bag of fluid.

Follow these basic steps to correctly withdraw and inject medications from vials.

Key Points Regarding Vials

- The rubber top of the vial is NOT sterile. After removing the hard plastic cover, you must clean it with an alcohol wipe.
- Your nurse might teach you to use needle-free vial adaptors so that you do not need to use needles. Specific instructions will be provided.
- If the vial is a “multi-dose” vial, you must store it as instructed by your nurse or pharmacist, and you must throw it away once it has expired. Most multi-dose vials expire 28 days after they have been opened and used for the first time if they have been stored in the refrigerator. Most expire 24 hours after opening if they have been kept at room temperature.



Supplies

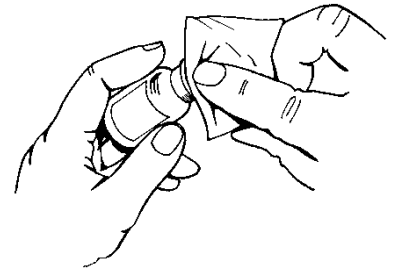
- Vial of medication
- Needle-free vial adaptor (optional) OR sterile injection needle
- Syringe
- Alcohol wipes
- Soap or alcohol based gel for hand washing

Withdrawing the Medication

1. Prepare a clean working area.
2. Assemble your supplies.
3. Wash your hands as instructed by your nurse.
4. Remove the plastic cover from the vial top.

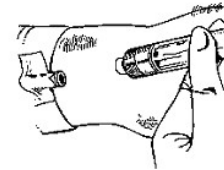
Using Vials

5. Open the alcohol wipe and clean the rubber top of the vial. Allow to air dry.
6. Open the package containing the needle-free adaptor. Remove the spike protector, and firmly push the spike into the vial top.
7. Open the package containing the syringe.
8. Clean the needle-free adaptor in the vial with an alcohol wipe.
9. Remove the protective cover from the syringe tip and attach the syringe to the vial.
10. Withdraw the prescribed amount of medication.
11. Remove the syringe from the vial.



Injecting Into Your Catheter

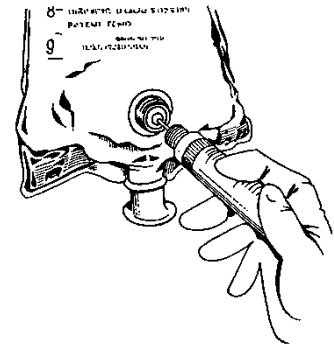
(See: Patient Education: Administering an IV Injection)



Injecting Into Your IV Solution

Your nurse might teach you to use a needle-free adaptor on the medication port of your IV solution.

1. Clean the injection port of the solution container with an alcohol wipe.
2. Connect the syringe to the medication port of your solution.
3. Slowly inject the medication.
4. Turn the bag of solution upside down several times to mix. Do not shake vigorously.



Notes and Instructions