

# Giving home intravenous (IV) medicine by bolus injection

This information sheet explains how to give medicine by bolus injection. A bolus injection is a single, dose of medicine in a syringe. You can also view a video on our Home Intravenous (IV) therapy service web page. It is important to follow these instructions to make sure your medicine is given correctly and reduce the risk of infection.

## Before you start giving the medicine

- Make sure you are in a quiet room, away from anything that may distract you.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- In between the different stages of preparing and giving the medicine. Use alcohol gel to clean your hands or wash your hands with soap and water.
- Clean the surface of the table or tray you are using to prepare the medicine. Use antibacterial surface cleaner, disinfectant wipes, or warm soapy water. Allow the surface to dry.
- Use this surface to prepare the IV medicine.

## Giving IV medicine by bolus injection

1. Pick up a 20ml syringe and attach the needle provided on to the syringe. Pick up the saline flush (total of 20mls). Remove the tip of the saline plastic ampule. Draw the 20mls of saline 0.9% into the syringe as shown by the nurse.

Point the syringe upwards and push in the plunger until there is no air left in the syringe. Place the cap on to the syringe without touching the tip of the syringe.

2. Remove the lid from the vial containing the medicine.
3. Tear open the pouch containing a small disposable cleaning wipe. Use the wipe to clean the top of the vial for at least 30 seconds and allow time to dry.
4. Unscrew the top of the mixing liquid (diluent) and place it upright on the clean surface.

5. Open the packages containing the syringe and needle. Put them together, without touching the tip of the syringe or the needle base. Using the syringe, withdraw the mixing liquid.
6. Hold the vial in one hand and the syringe with the other. Push the needle through the rubber on top of the vial. Add the liquid from the syringe into the vial by pushing the syringe plunger.
7. Carefully roll the vial as you have been shown by the nurse until the medicine is fully dissolved.
8. Draw the mixed liquid from the vial into the syringe by slowly pulling the plunger down.
9. Once the medicine is inside the syringe, remove any air as shown by the nurse. Hold the syringe in the palm of one hand. Use your other hand to take out the red bung from its package. Place the bung on the end of the syringe. Be careful not to touch the tip of the syringe or the end of the bung. Place the syringe onto the clean surface.
10. When your medicine is ready, tear open the pouch containing a small disposable cleaning wipe. Use the wipe to clean the end of the line also called the Bionector for at least 30 seconds. Allow the end of the line time to dry.
11. Remove the lid from the IV flush and place it on the clean surface.
12. Attach the IV flush syringe to the Bionector. Push the plunger using the push and pause technique until you have given the amount of saline (mls) directed by the nurse. Remove the syringe.
13. Remove the red bung from the syringe containing the medicine. Attach the syringe to the Bionector at the end of the line. Slowly push in the plunger for between 3 to 5 minutes until the syringe is empty.
14. When all the medicine has been given remove the syringe from the end of the IV line.
15. Flush the IV line again. Remove the lid from the IV flush and attach the syringe to the Bionector. Slowly push the plunger using the push and pause technique. Do this until you have given the amount of saline (mls) as directed by the nurse.
16. When you have finished flushing, clamp the IV line, and remove the syringe.
17. Dispose of any needles, syringes, other equipment, and packaging as the nurse has shown you.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicine, please speak to the staff caring for you.

### More information

See videos and more information on the Home Intravenous (IV) therapy service page on Royal Brompton website ([www.rbht.nhs.uk](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk)).

### Was this leaflet useful?

If you have any comments about this information, we'd be happy to hear from you.

[email](mailto:healthcontent@gstt.nhs.uk) [healthcontent@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:healthcontent@gstt.nhs.uk)

### Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please contact the department your appointment is with.

### Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern about any service or department at Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals. Contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS):

- Royal Brompton Hospital [phone](tel:02073497715) 020 7349 7715
- Harefield Hospital [phone](tel:01895826572) 01895 826 572

Or [email](mailto:gstt.rbhh-pals@nhs.net) [gstt.rbhh-pals@nhs.net](mailto:gstt.rbhh-pals@nhs.net)

### NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day, [phone](tel:111) 111 [web](http://www.111.nhs.uk) [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk)

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