

Giving home intravenous (IV) medicine using gravity giving set

This information sheet explains how to add medicine to the IV bag and use the gravity giving set. It is important to follow these instructions below to make sure 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.

Then add medicine to the IV bag

1. Unscrew the top of the mixing liquid (diluent) and place it upright on the clean surface.
2. Open the packages containing the syringe and needle. Put them together, without touching the tip.
3. Remove the lid from the vial containing medicine.
4. 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.
5. Hold the vial in one hand and the syringe with the other. Push the needle through the rubber on top of the vial. Then mix the liquid from the syringe into the vial by pushing the syringe plunger.
6. Carefully shake the vial while holding the syringe in place until the medicine is fully dissolved.

7. Draw the mixed liquid from the vial into the syringe by slowly pulling the plunger up.
8. Clean the injection port of your IV bag with an alcohol pad for 15 seconds and allow to dry. Place the IV bag on the cleaned surface.
9. Insert the needle into the saline bag. Use the entry point on the bag that does not have a cap on it.
10. Add the medicine from the syringe into IV bag by pushing the plunger until the syringe is empty. Undo the syringe and the needle and put both in the sharps bin.

Giving medicine using a gravity giving set

1. Take the giving set out of its package. Ensure the clamp is closed and place on a clean surface.
2. Pick up the saline bag that contains the medicine and remove the cap from the outlet port. The nurse will show you the outlet port.
3. Remove the cover from the giving set spike and hold it with one hand. Use your other hand to pick up the outlet port from the saline bag and insert the spike.
4. Hang the saline bag with the giving set in place.
5. Squeeze the drip chamber until it is one-third full.
6. Release the clamp or open the roller clamp as shown by the nurse. You will see a solution coming through the line. Allow the solution to run slowly. This is called priming the line. Priming removes all the air in the line. An IV line needs to be primed to prevent air from entering the bloodstream.
7. Let the fluid go all the way down to the end of the tubing and close the clamp. Set up the flow regulator as the nurse has shown you. Check for any air bubbles in the line. If any present remove as the nurse has shown, you.
8. Pick up the IV flush (syringe containing the sodium chloride infusion). Point the syringe upwards and push the plunger until there is no air left in the syringe. Place the lid back on without touching the tip of the syringe.
9. Use the wipe to clean the Bionector. Then attach the IV flush syringe to the Bionector. 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.
10. Remove the plastic stopper from the IV line of the gravity giving set and attach it to the Bionector. Release the clamp or unroll the roller clamp.

11. You will know medicine is being infused (going into the bloodstream) because you will see drips falling inside the drip chamber. The infusion is finished when the bag is empty. Clamp the giving set and undo the line.
12. Clean the IV line by flushing it again. Remove the lid from the IV flush and attach the syringe to the Bionector. 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.
13. When you have finished flushing, clamp the IV line, and remove the syringe.
14. 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). **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

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

NHS 111

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