

Giving home intravenous (IV) medicine using a pre-mixed syringe

This information sheet explains how to give medicine using a pre-mixed 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 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 medicine using a pre-mixed syringe

1. Unclamp the IV line.
2. Pick up the saline IV flush (syringe containing sodium chloride solution). Point the syringe upwards and push in the plunger until there is no air left in the syringe. Place the lid back on.
3. Pick up the syringe containing the medicine. Remove the cap and place it on the clean surface. Point the syringe upwards and push in the plunger until there is no air left in the syringe. Place the cap back on.
4. 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.
5. Remove the cap from the IV flush and place it on the clean surface.

6. Attach the syringe to the Bionector. Push the plunger until you have given the amount of saline (mls) as directed by the nurse. Remove the syringe and replace the lid.
7. Remove the cap from the syringe containing the medicine and attach it to the Bionector. Push in the plunger until the syringe is empty using the push and pause technique. This should take between 3 to 5 minutes. Then disconnect the syringe from the Bionector.
8. Clean the IV line by flushing it again. Remove the cap from the IV flush and attach the syringe to the Bionector. Slowly push the plunger until you have given the amount of saline (mls) as directed by the nurse.
9. When you have finished flushing, clamp the IV line, remove the syringe, and clean the Bionector.
10. 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:gstt.healthcontent@nhs.net) gstt.healthcontent@nhs.net

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

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Resource number: RBH/review

Last reviewed: August 2025

Next review due: August 2028

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A list of sources is available on request