

Giving home intravenous (IV) medicine with a ready to use infuser device (Intermate)

This information sheet explains how to give medicine with a ready to use infuser device (Intermate). 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 medicine with a ready to use infuser device (Intermate)

1. 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. Do not touch the tip of the syringe.
2. On the infuser device (Intermate), unclip the rectangular plastic line clamp and twist off the plastic stopper. Keep it clean by holding it or placing it on the clean surface.
3. You will now see a solution coming through the IV infuser line. This is called priming the line. You need to remove all the air (bubbles) in the IV infuser line before attaching it. Any IV infusion line needs to be first primed to prevent air from entering your bloodstream.

When you have removed the air, allow a couple of drops of solution to come out. Then place the plastic stopper back on. Check the line has no air bubbles. If there are bubbles continue priming line to release them. Once the line is primed use the plaster stopper once primed without touching the end of the line.

4. Clamp the line by pushing it back into the narrow end of the rectangular plastic clamp.

5. When the medicine is ready, tear open the pouch containing a small disposable cleaning wipe. Use the wipe to clean the end of the line which is also called the Bionector for at least 30 seconds. Allow time for the end of the line to dry.

6. Next clean the line by flushing it. Attach the syringe with the saline flush 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. Remove the syringe.

7. Remove the plastic stopper from the line of the infuser device and attach it to the Bionector, without touching the ends.

8. Unclip the rectangular plastic line clamp. The medicine is now being infused (going into the bloodstream).

9. You will know when an infusion is finished because the balloon inside the infuser device (Intermate) will be completely deflated. The time it takes to give an infusion depends on the type of medicine you are prescribed. The nurse will advise you about this. When an infusion is finished, clamp the device as shown by the nurse. Then undo the IV line.

10. Flush the IV line again. Remove the lid 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.

11. When you have finished flushing, remove the syringe. If your IV access has a clamp, close this as the nurse has shown you.

12. 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

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

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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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A list of sources is available on request