



A lifetime of specialist care

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

Patient information

This information sheet explains how to give medication using a pre-mixed syringe. You can also view a video on the Trust's Home Intravenous (IV) therapy service web page. It is important to follow these instructions to make sure medication is given correctly and reduce the risk of infection.

Before you start giving the medication:

- 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 medication: use alcohol gel to clean your hands or wash your hands.
- Clean the surface of the table or tray you are using to prepare the medication with antibacterial surface cleaner, disinfectant wipes or warm soapy water. Allow the surface to dry.
- Use this surface to prepare the IV medication.

Giving medication 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 and place the lid back on.
3. Pick up the syringe containing the medication. 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 and 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 bung) for at least 30 seconds and allow time to dry.
5. Remove the cap from the IV flush and place it on the clean surface.
6. Next, clean the IV line before giving the medication. Attach the syringe to the bung and 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 medication and attach it to the bung. Push in the plunger until the syringe is empty. This should take between 3-5 minutes. Disconnect the syringe from the bung.
8. Clean the IV line by flushing it again. Remove the cap from the IV flush and attach the syringe to the bung. 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 bung.
10. Dispose of any needles, syringes, other equipment and packaging as the nurse has shown you.

Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns about your medication, please speak to the staff caring for you or contact our medicines advisory service.

Medicines advisory service

Tel: 020 7351 8901 ext. 2222 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm)

Email: medinfo@rbht.nhs.uk

More information

See videos and more information on the Home Intravenous (IV) therapy service page on Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust's website (www.rbht.nhs.uk).

If you need help or advice about any service or department at our hospitals and feel unable to talk to those people responsible for your care, call the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 020 7349 7715 or email pals@rbht.nhs.uk. This is a confidential service.