

Gravity Infusion Instructions

(Rate Flow Device)

If your medicine is stored in the refrigerator, you may take the next dose out to let it warm to **room temperature**. Do this several hours prior to giving it, as directed on the medication label. Do not heat the IV medicine in a microwave oven, direct sunlight, hot water or any other heat source. Heating may damage the medicine and make it harmful.

- ❖ If you forget to take your medicine out of the refrigerator, it is still okay to infuse. **Do not change your scheduled dosing times.**

Follow these instructions with every infusion.

The needleless blue connector will be referred to as the “blue cap” below.

1. Wash your hands well using a liquid soap for at least 20 seconds. Be sure to wash all parts of your hands including the top and bottom, between fingers, and under fingernails. **Use a paper towel to dry your hands.** You may use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if your hands are not visibly dirty.
2. Prepare a clean work area: wipe the surface with a disinfecting wipe or soapy water.
3. Gather needed supplies and place them on your clean work area, on a clean paper towel:
 - Medicine - check the medicine label to make sure the following are correct:
 - ✓ Patient name and date of birth
 - ✓ Medicine name and dose
 - ✓ Number of times the medicine is given each day

Hold the medicine up to the light and make sure it hasn't changed color and that it doesn't have any particles floating in it. **If you see this, do not use the medicine and call Home+ Home Infusion at 755-1150.**

- IV tubing with the rate flow regulator
 - IV pole
 - Sterile protective cap
 - Alcohol pads
 - Gloves
 - 2 prefilled saline syringes (0.9% sodium chloride)
 - 1 prefilled heparin syringe (if needed)
4. Wash your hands again and put on gloves.
 5. Open the tubing package and unwind the IV tubing. Close the clamp and set the rate flow device to the “OFF” position.
 6. Remove the cover from the spike end of the IV tubing. Do not touch the spike.
 7. Remove the rubber cover from the entry port to the medicine bag and insert the spike into the port of the medicine bag using a pushing-twisting motion until it reaches the ridge.
 8. Hang the medicine bag on the IV pole. Squeeze the drip chamber until it is half full. Adjust the IV pole to a height that is high and above the heart.

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9. Prime the tubing by turning the rate flow device to “200.” Open the clamp. After the medicine passes the rate flow device, then turn to “OPEN.” When a drop of fluid is seen at the end of the tubing, close the clamp and turn the rate flow device to “OFF.”
10. Tap the saline syringe firmly against your hand to move any air bubbles to the top. Take the cap off of the saline syringe. Do not touch the syringe tip. **If the tip is touched, throw it away and use another one.** Pull the plunger down to loosen the rubber stopper.
11. Hold the syringe so the tip points to the ceiling. Push the plunger up to remove the air until you see a drop of saline at the tip of the syringe.
12. Use a new alcohol pad to scrub the blue cap on the end of your IV line for 5-15 seconds. Let this air dry. Do not fan or blow air on the blue cap.
13. Attach the end of the saline syringe to the blue cap on your IV line (push and twist clockwise). Open the clamp(s) on your IV line or tubing.
14. Push the syringe plunger using a start/stop pulsing motion. Do 10 quick pulses of about 1 mL each, stopping briefly between each pulse. Leave about ½ mL of saline in the syringe. Remove the syringe.
15. Pick up the end of the IV tubing and remove the cap, avoid touching the tip once the cap is removed.
16. Use a new alcohol pad to scrub the blue cap on the end of your IV line for 5-15 seconds. Let this air dry, do not fan or blow air on the blue cap.
17. Attach the IV tubing to the blue cap on your IV line (push and twist clockwise).
18. Turn the rate flow device to the following rate _____. Open the clamp on the gravity tubing. The medicine should be dripping into the drip chamber.
19. The infusion will take approximately_____ minutes.
20. When the medicine bag is empty and the drip chamber is half full, close the clamp on the tubing and turn the rate flow device to “OFF.”
21. Remove the tubing from the blue cap and use a sterile cap to cover the end of the medicine bag tubing. Place the medicine bag and tubing in a clean plastic bag or hang it on the IV pole. Change the tubing every 24 hours.
22. Flush with saline following steps 10-14 above. If this is your last step, remove the syringe and close the clamp.
23. If you will need heparin, prepare the heparin syringe by following steps 10-12 above.
24. Attach the end of the heparin syringe to the blue cap on your IV line (push and twist clockwise). Slowly push the plunger. Leave about ½ mL of heparin in the syringe. Remove the syringe and clamp the tubing.
25. Throw your used supplies into the household trash unless you are told not to. You may want to remove the yellow label from the medicine bag and shred it or cross it out as it contains personal information.

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- ❖ Flush all IV lines twice daily unless told differently by your nurse.
- ❖ Always flush the IV line(s) in this sequence after giving your medication:
 - flush
 - remove the syringe
 - clamp
- ❖ Always keep the line clamped when not in use.
- ❖ Wipe **ONLY** the blue cap with alcohol. The tip of the saline syringe and the tip of the medicine syringe are sterile and do not need to be cleaned.

Regional Home+ Home Infusion
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