

HOMECARE SERIES

# **Using an Elastomeric Device**

An **elastomeric device** is a device used to deliver medication through your intravenous (IV) line. Medication is put in a balloon-like chamber, and pressure from the balloon delivers the medication at a safe and steady rate.

Your nurse will teach you how to use the elastomeric device, and how to **flush** your IV line. Flushing means filling the IV tubing with solution to keep the IV line from clotting.

Use this fact sheet to remind yourself of the steps for using the elastomeric device and flushing the IV line. Unless your nurse tells you otherwise, you can discard all used supplies in the regular trash.

#### Medication information

Medication	n:	
Schedule:		

#### S.A.S. FLUSH

Saline:\_\_\_\_\_ mL

Administer medication

Saline:\_\_\_\_\_ mL

#### S.A.S.H. FLUSH

Saline:\_\_\_\_\_ mL

Administer medication

Saline:\_\_\_\_\_ mL

Heparin:\_\_\_\_\_ mL

#### **Prepare**



**Clean** your hands with cleansing solution.

- Rub your hands vigorously until they are dry.
- Clean your hands each time you work with your IV.



**Check** the medication label.

- Verify each label has your name, dose, and is not expired.
- Call your nurse or pharmacist and do not use the medication if the label is incorrect.



Lay out your supplies.

- Flush syringes
  - 2 saline syringes
  - Heparin syringe, if needed
- Sterile wipes
- Alcohol disinfectant cap
- Elastomeric device with medication
  - Warm medication to room temperature if desired. Set it on the counter to warm.
     Do not warm in microwave or hot water.
  - Use the elastomeric device once, then discard.
- DO NOT use the elastomeric device while bathing or swimming.

# Prime your IV tubing



**Open** the device tubing clamp.



**Fill** the tubing with the solution.

- Watch until you see medication drip out the end.
- Loosen the tubing cap if solution is not flowing, then retighten.



Close the clamp.

#### **Prepare your syringes**



**Remove** the syringe cap.



**Gently tap** the syringe to move air to the tip.



**Push** the plunger to remove air and extra solution.

 If difficult to push, pull plunger back slightly to break the seal.



**Replace** the syringe cap until you are ready to use it.

### Flush your IV line

• Flush with saline following the "How to flush your IV line" instructions.

# How to flush your IV line



**Remove** the alcohol disinfectant cap and discard.



**Attach** the syringe firmly to the IV needleless connector using a push and twist motion.



**Open** the clamp.



**Inject** the solution.



**Close** the clamp.



**Remove** and discard the syringe.



**Attach** a new alcohol disinfectant cap after the final flush.

\* If the needleless connector touches anything, **CLEAN IT** with a sterile wipe for 15 seconds.

# **Administer your medication**



**Scrub** the needleless connector with a sterile wipe for 15 seconds if it has touched anything.



**Attach** the elastomeric device firmly to the needleless connector.



**Ensure** the IV line clamp is open.

• Place the device in a pocket or pouch during infusion.

#### Infuse entire dose of medication

- This should take about \_\_\_\_\_ minutes
- Check device often.

#### After the infusion



The device will look like this when empty.



**Clean** your hands with cleansing solution.



**Disconnect** the device tubing from the needleless connector.

#### Flush your IV line

Follow the "How to flush your IV line" instructions on the previous page.

- Flush with saline.
- Flush with Heparin if instructed.
- **Discard** the empty device in the regular garbage.

## Need help or have questions?

Nurse		
Phone number _		

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