

Mixing and Giving Your IV Medicine: Vial-Mate

Your doctor ordered a medicine that you will give in your intravenous (IV) line. This medicine comes in a vial connected to a small bag of sterile IV solution. Mix the vial into the bag right before you give your medicine in your IV.

You will also need to “flush” your IV line to keep it clear. Flush means filling the IV tubing with solution to keep the IV line from clotting. Your nurse will teach you how to prepare, give your medicine, and flush your line safely.

Follow the steps in this fact sheet and your nurse’s instructions carefully. Unless your nurse tells you otherwise, discard all used supplies in the regular trash.

Medication information

Medication: _____

Schedule: _____

S.A.S. FLUSH

Saline: _____ mL

Administer medication

Saline: _____ mL

S.A.S.H. FLUSH

Saline: _____ mL

Administer medication

Saline: _____ mL

Heparin: _____ mL

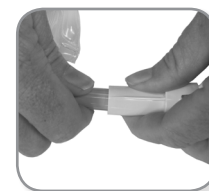
Prepare

- 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 and 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.**
 - IV bag with medicine attached
 - Warm to room temperature if refrigerated.
 - If medicine in the vial is not dry, call the pharmacist.
 - IV Tubing
 - Flush syringes
 - 2 Saline syringes
 - Heparin syringe, if needed
 - Sterile wipes
 - Alcohol disinfectant cap



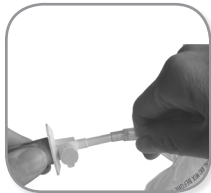
Prepare your dose

- Hold the white gripper and blue port adapter firmly.**
 - Twist *slightly* so the ridges on both parts line up.
- Push the blue port all the way into the white gripper.**
 - This lets the fluid flow into the vial.
- Hold bag with vial down.**
 - **Squeeze** until the vial is half full of solution.
 - **Swirl** liquid in vial to dissolve *all* of the medicine.
- Turn bag so vial is on top.**
 - **Squeeze and release** bag to force air into vial and empty the medicine into the bag.
- Repeat** filling and emptying the vial so the medicine is mixed well and back in the bag. A little liquid left in the vial is normal.
 - **Leave** the vial connected to the bag.



Connect IV tubing to the medicine bag

- 1 Close** the tubing clamp.
- 2 Pull** the cover off the medicine bag.
- 3 Remove** the spike cap.
- 4 Push** the spike into the medicine bag.



Prime your IV tubing

- 1 Hang** the bag on the IV pole.
 - If there is no fluid in the drip chamber, **gently squeeze** and release it to add a little fluid.
- 2 Open** the IV tubing clamp.
- 3 Fill** tubing with the solution.
 - Loosen** the tubing cap if solution is not flowing, then retighten.
- 4 Close** the clamp.
 - Reclamp** the tubing, if necessary.

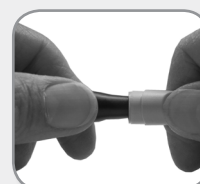
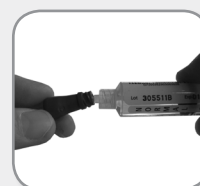
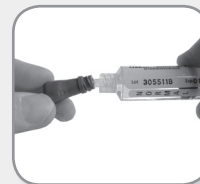
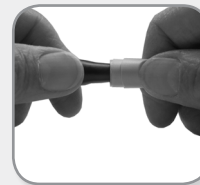


Flush your IV line

Flush with saline following the “How to flush your IV line” instructions.

How to flush your IV line

- 1 Remove** the alcohol disinfectant cap and discard.
- 2 Attach** the syringe firmly to the IV needleless connector using a push and twist motion.
- 3 Open** the clamp.
- 4 Inject** the solution.
- 5 Close** the clamp.
- 6 Remove** and discard the syringe.
- 7 Attach** a new alcohol disinfectant cap after the final flush.



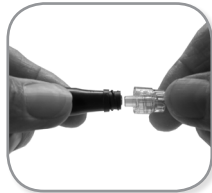
* If the needleless connector touches anything, **CLEAN IT** with a sterile wipe for 15 seconds.

Administer your medication

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



- 2 Attach** the medicine bag firmly to the needleless connector.



- 3 Open** the IV line clamp.



- 4 Adjust** the rate to _____.

- 5 Infusion** will take _____ minutes.

- 6 Stop** your infusion before the bag is completely empty.

NOTE: Air cannot get into your body if the bag runs dry. But, your IV could clot if you wait too long to flush.

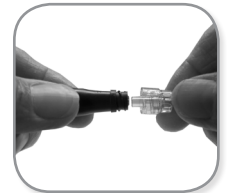
After your infusion

When your infusion is done, a small amount of fluid will be left in the bag. This is considered overfill and doesn't affect your dose. Follow the steps below once your infusion is complete.

- 1 Clean** your hands with cleansing solution.



- 2 Disconnect** IV tubing from your IV line.



Reuse the tubing

Tubing may be reused for up to 24 hours. Follow the steps below to reuse your tubing. Discard your tubing after 24 hours.

- 3 Protect** the end of the tubing with a new alcohol cap.



- 4 Leave** the tubing attached to the empty bag until the next dose.

- With your next infusion, **remove** old bag and **connect** new bag to your tubing.
- **Reprime** the tubing if necessary.



Flush Your IV Line

Follow the "How to flush your IV line" instructions on page 2:

- **Flush** with saline.
- **Flush** with Heparin, if instructed.

Need help or have questions?

Nurse _____

Phone number _____

Intermountain Homecare & Hospice

385-887-6000

800-527-1118



**Intermountain®
Homecare & Hospice**

Content created and approved by Intermountain Homecare & Hospice