Giving Medication: IV push

Your doctor has ordered a medication that will go into your intravenous (IV) line. This is called an IV Push because the medication is “pushed” into your bloodstream with a syringe. Your IV line will also need to be flushed. Flushing means filling the IV tubing with a solution to keep it from getting blocked (clotting). Your nurse will show you how to flush the line and put in the medication. This fact sheet will help you remember the steps.

Getting ready

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

2 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 or the medication is expired.

3 Lay out your supplies:
   - Medication syringe
   - 2 Saline syringes
   - Heparin syringe, if needed
   - Sterile wipes
   - Alcohol disinfectant cap

Preparing the syringes

1 Remove the syringe cap.

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

3 Push the plunger to remove air and extra solution. If difficult to push, pull plunger back slightly to break the seal.

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

My medications

Medication: ________________________________
Schedule: ________________________________

☐ Prefilled syringe    ☐ Fill Syringe with medication

S.A.S. FLUSH
Saline: _________mL
Administer medication
Saline: _________mL

S.A.S.H. FLUSH
Saline: _________mL
Administer medication
Saline: _________mL
Heparin: _________mL
**How to flush your IV line**

Flush with saline by following the instructions below:

1. **Remove** the alcohol disinfectant cap and throw it away.

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

3. **Open** the clamp.

4. **Inject** the solution by pushing the plunger.

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. Before connecting anything to the needleless connector, look for particles. If seen, WIPE THEM AWAY with an alcohol wipe.

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**How to administer your medication**

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

2. **Attach** the medication syringe firmly to the needleless connector.

3. **Unclamp** the IV line if it is closed.

4. **Inject** the medication over ______ minutes by pushing the plunger. Remove and discard the syringe.

**Flush your IV line**

After giving your medication, flush your IV line with saline following the instructions above. Flush with heparin if you are instructed to do so.

**Discard your used supplies**

Discard (throw way) all your used supplies in the regular trash unless your nurse tells you otherwise.
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Need help or have questions?

Nurse: ____________________________
Phone number: ______________________

Intermountain Homecare & Hospice:
385-887-6000 or 800-527-1118