Intermountain Health

Using Cathflo in Your IV Line

Your nurse has determined your IV line needs Cathflo to keep it open and working well. Cathflo will need to stay in your IV line (instilled) long enough to clear the line. Your nurse will determine the amount time it stays in your IV line. Do not use the Cathflo until your nurse tells you when and how to use it.



When you receive the Cathflo:

- Check the label for your name and the expiration date. If something is incorrect on the label, call your nurse or pharmacist and do not use the Cathflo.
- Store the Cathflo syringe in the refrigerator until you are ready to use it.

Once your nurse shows you how to use the Cathflo:

1. Remove the alcohol disinfectant cap from the needleless connector and throw it away. **If the needleless connector touches anything, clean it with an alcohol wipe for 15 seconds before using it.**
2. Flush your IV line with saline and remove the syringe. **If you are not able to flush the line, do not force it.** Attach a new alcohol disinfectant cap and call your nurse for further instructions.
3. Connect the Cathflo syringe to your needleless connector.
4. Slowly inject 2 milliliters (mL) of Cathflo and then remove the syringe.
5. Attach a new alcohol disinfectant cap.
6. Label your line with the sticker provided.
7. Let Cathflo stay in the line as long as your nurse tells you to leave it there.
8. Call your nurse to report your results.

You have Cathflo in your IV line to help keep it clear. **Before your IV line is used for your medication, the Cathflo needs to be removed.** Wait for your nurse to give you instructions about what to do with the Cathflo before trying to do this yourself.

Removing the Cathflo:

1. Remove the Cathflo sticker from your IV line.
2. Remove the alcohol disinfectant cap and throw it away. **If the needleless connector touches anything, clean it with an alcohol wipe for 15 seconds before using it.**
3. Attach an empty 10 mL syringe and pull back on the plunger.

- **If you don't see any blood return:**
  - Remove and throw away the empty syringe and attach a new alcohol disinfectant cap.
  - Call the nurse for instructions.
- **If you see blood return:**
  - Withdraw 2 or 3 mL of blood into the syringe.
  - Remove and throw away the syringe.
  - Flush your IV line with 20 mL saline (2 saline syringes) and remove the syringe.
  - Attach a new alcohol disinfectant cap.
  - Call your nurse to report your results.
  - When it is time, you may give your next medication dose unless the nurse tells you otherwise.



Need help or have questions?

Nurse: _____

Phone: _____

Intermountain Homecare & Hospice:

385-887-6000

800-527-1118

Content created and approved by Intermountain Homecare & Hospice

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