

Administration of Your I.V. Medications

Gravity Drip Method

For your medication to be most effective, it is important that you receive it at the prescribe times and rate. This information is written on your medication label, and your nurse will review this with you.

Keeping Your Catheter Open

When fluids are not being infused, blood can back up into your catheter and clot. This can block the passageway into your vein. To prevent clotting, the catheter is filled with a *heparin* solution. This procedure is called heparinization or the heparin flush. It is done after each medication dose and at least daily when you are not receiving medications.

REMEMBER “S-A-S-H”

“S - A - S - H” is a word to help you remember the four steps to giving your medication.

- *alcohol wipe* -

S= Saline Flush*

- *alcohol wipe* -

A = Administer Medication

- *alcohol wipe* -

S = Saline Flush*

- *alcohol wipe* -

H = **Heparin Flush**

- * Some catheters do not require heparin. In this case, the in S-A-S method will be used. Your nurse will tell you if you need to use a Heparin flush.

Administration of Your I.V. Medications (continued)

Here are the steps for giving your medication using the Gravity Drip Method.

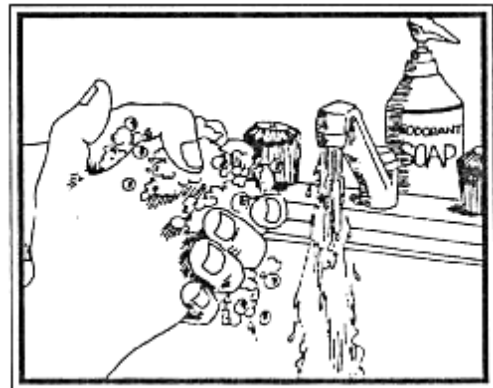
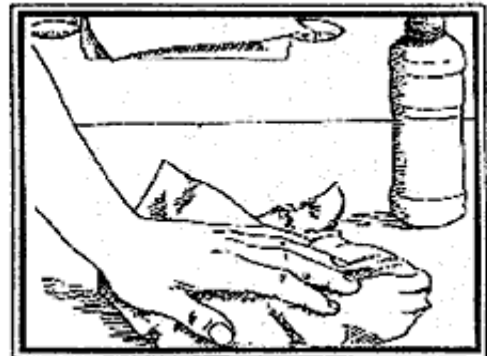
Equipment

- I.V. medication bag (AT ROOM TEMPERATURE)
- gravity drip administration tubing
- I.V. pole
- alcohol wipes
- 2 saline flushes
- 1 heparin flush
- 1 protective cap
- waste container
- filter if instructed by your nurse

Procedure

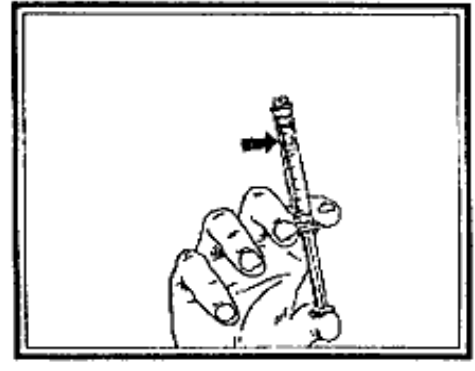
1. To prepare for your infusion:

- Gather your equipment.
Make sure the information on the medication label is correct for you.
- Clean your work area.
- Wash your hands thoroughly.



Administration of Your I.V. Medications (continued)

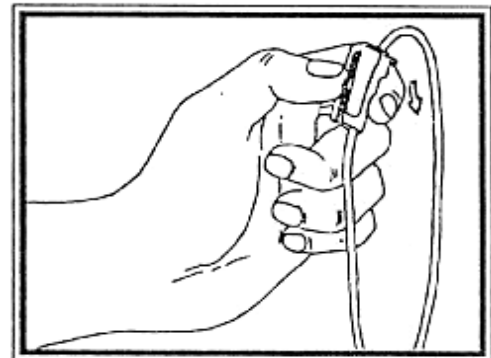
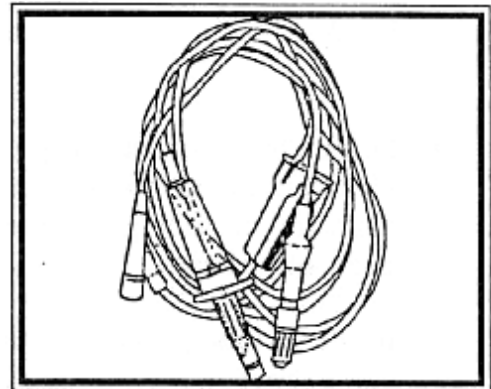
2. Prepare your saline and heparin flushes.



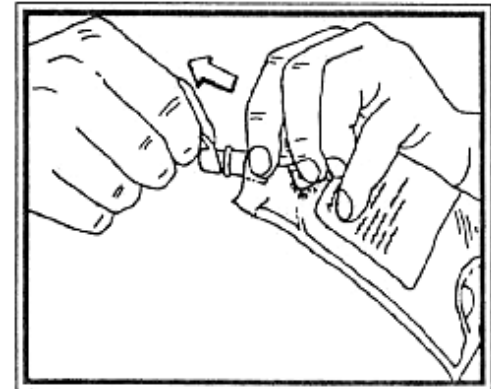
3. Check your I.V. catheter exit site for redness, swelling, drainage, or tenderness. Refer to the I.V. Catheter Troubleshooting section if you note any of these symptoms.

4. To prepare the IV tubing and **medication** bag:

- Remove the administration tubing from the package.
- **Close** the roller damp.
- Remove the outer packaging (if any) around the medication bag. Remove the protective tab from the administration port of your medication bag.



*The administration port is **STERILE**. It **CANNOT** touch any non-sterile surface, including your work area and your hands.*



Administration of Your I.V. Medications (continued)

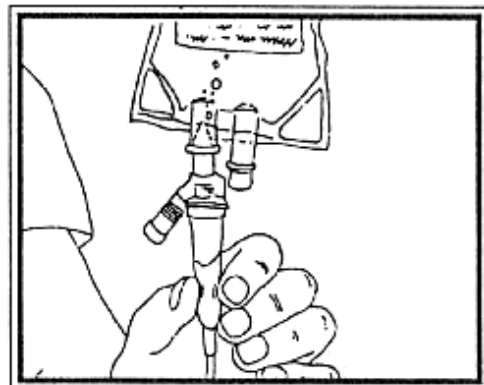
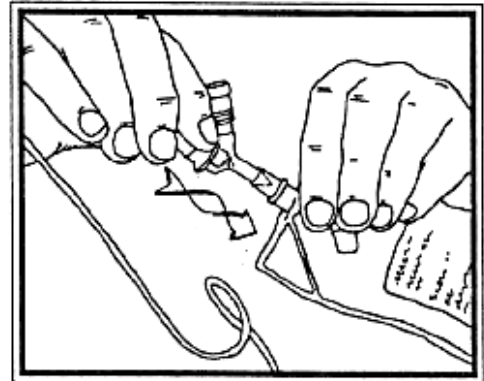
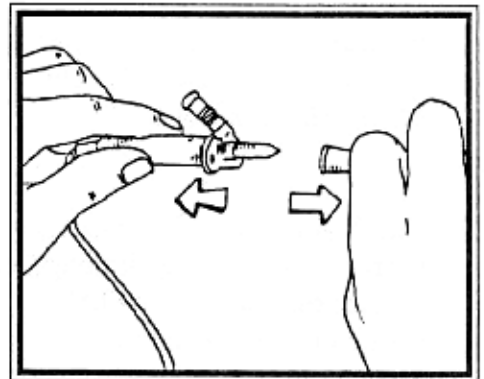
Lay the medication bag down on the edge of the table so that the newly exposed port extends over the edge not touching your work area.

- Remove the protective cover from the spike on the administration tubing.

*The spike is **STERILE**. It **CAN NOT** touch any non-sterile surface, including your work area and your hands.*

- Pick up the medication bag. Hold the administration port in one hand and the tubing with the spike in the other hand. insert the tubing spike into the administration port, using a twisting motion. Be careful not to touch any sterile parts.

- Hang the medication bag and tubing from the I.V. pole. Gently squeeze and release the drip chamber, filling it about one-half full.



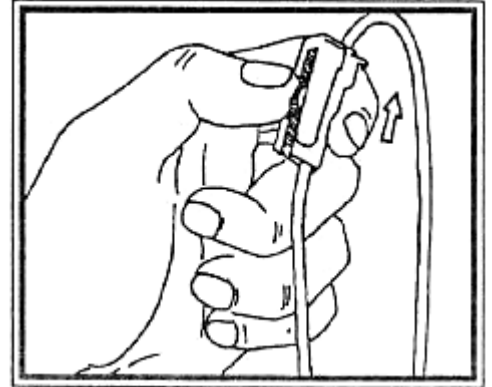
Administration of Your I.V.

Medications (continued)

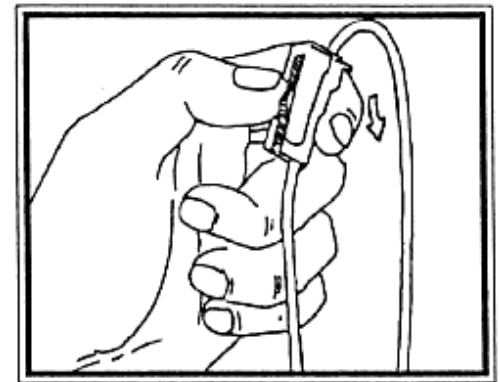
5. To prepare the tubing:

- Open the roller clamp to fill the tubing with the medication solution.

A little of the medication solution may spill onto your work area. With practice, you will find that you spill very little solution.



When the administration tubing is filled, roll the clamp closed to stop the flow. This is called **priming**.

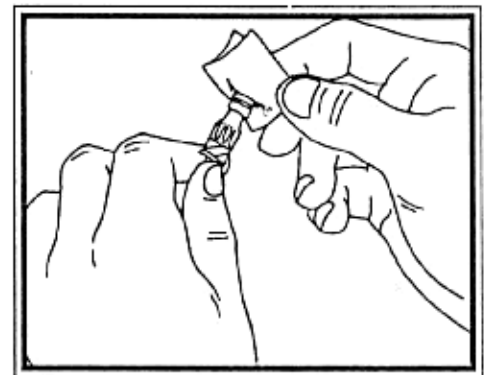


6. To flush your catheter with **saline**:

- Clean the injection cap with an alcohol wipe, using friction.

If there is a clamp on your I.V. catheter, open it now.

- Pull firmly to remove the cover from the **saline** flush.
- Insert the syringe directly into the injection cap.



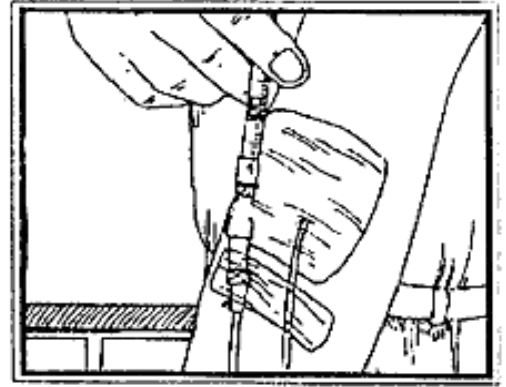
Administration of Your I.V. Medications (continued)

Slowly inject saline in to your catheter.

(This is the “S” in S-A-S-H)

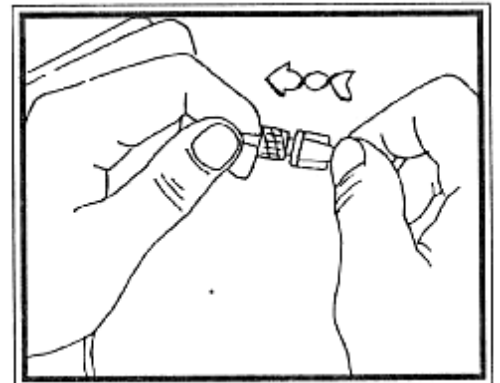
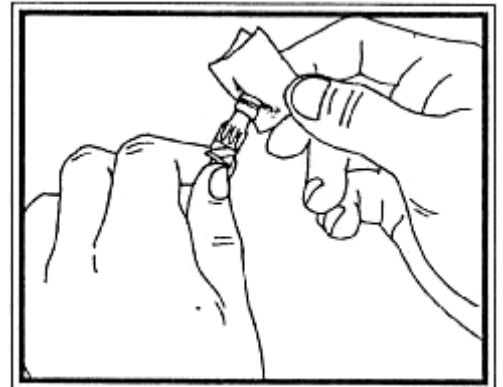
If you feel any resistance, do not use force. Refer to the I.V. Catheter Troubleshooting section.

When the flush is complete, remove the syringe from the injection cap, and dispose of it as your nurse instructed.



7. To start your medication infusion:

- Clean the injection cap with a new alcohol wipe using friction.
- Pull firmly to remove the protective cover from the end of the administration tubing.
- Insert the tubing straight into the injection cap, using a slight twisting motion.



Administration of Your I.V. Medications (continued)

Slowly open the roller clamp.
Adjust it so the medication flows
at a rate of _____ drops per
15 seconds.

**Remember to relax during the
administration of your medication.**

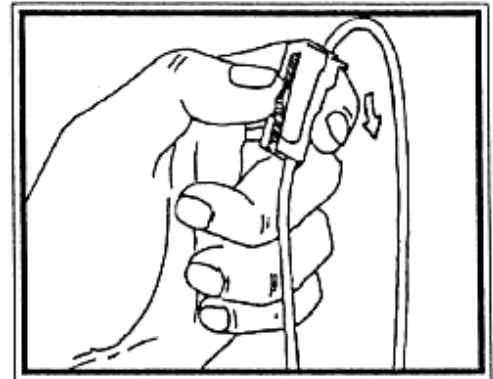
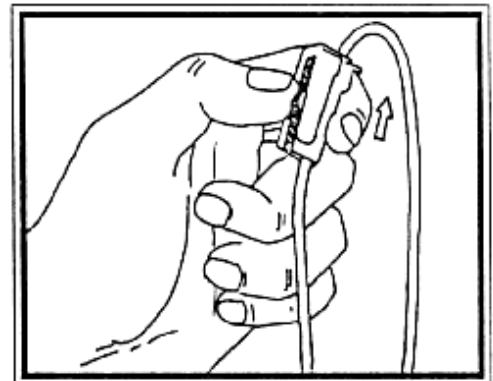
(This is the “A” in s-A-s-H)

Since changes in position can affect the flow
rate, check the rate occasionally. If the rate has
changed, you can speed it up or slow it down
slightly using the roller damp.

8. To complete your medication infusion:
- When the medication bag is empty, close the roller damp. Remove the tubing from the injection cap.

Note:

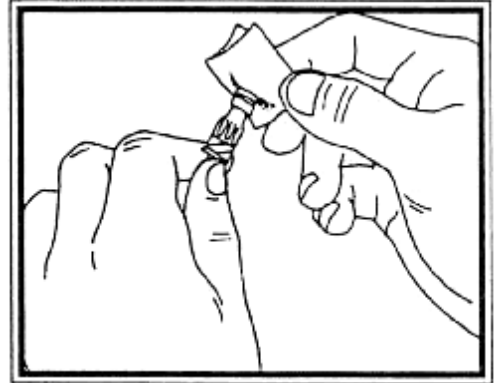
- If you will receive another dose within the next 24 hours, place a sterile protective cap on the end of the tubing and allow the empty bag to hang. At your next dose, remove the tubing spike from the empty bag and twist it into the port of the new bag, keeping it sterile.
- If the tubing is due to be changed with your next dose, discard the tubing and empty medication bag into your waste container.



Administration of Your I.V. Medications (continued)

To flush your catheter with saline:

- Clean the injection cap with an alcohol wipe.
- Pull firmly to remove the syringe cover from the saline flush.
- Insert the syringe into your injection cap.
- Slowly inject all of the saline solution.



(This is the “**S**” in S- A - **S** – H)

- To flush your catheter with heparin:
 - Clean the injection cap again with an alcohol wipe.
 - Pull firmly to remove the syringe cover from the heparin flush.
 - Insert the syringe into your injection cap and slowly inject the heparin solution.

(This is the “**H**” in S-A-S-**H**)

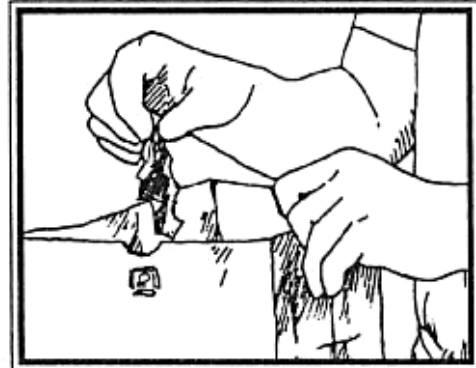
REMEMBER:

1. Leave the empty bag hanging until your next dose.
2. Put on a new sterile protective cap on the tubing immediately after each dose.
3. Change your tubing as instructed by your nurse.

Administration of Your I.V. Medications (continued)

9. Your final steps:

Discard used supplies into your waste container.



- Wash your hands thoroughly.

