

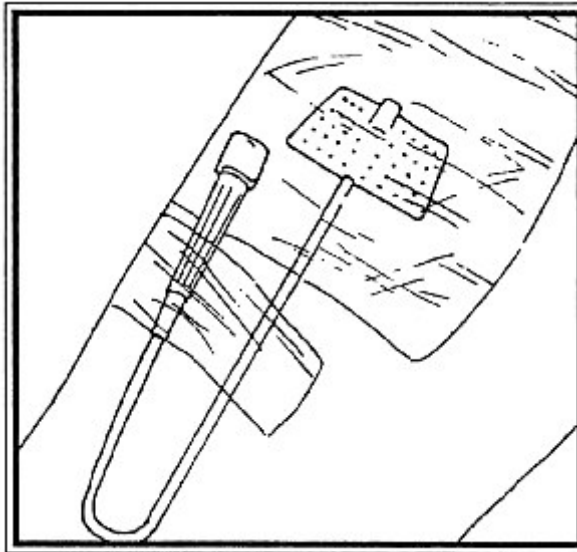
Peripheral I.V. Catheters

Peripheral I.V. catheters are catheters placed into the veins of the hands and arms for infusion of medications and solutions.

There are several types of peripheral catheters that can be used to provide your therapy. You may hear these catheters called by brand names such as Jelco, Insyte, Intima, and others. I.V. catheters come in different sizes. Their lengths vary from 3/4 inch to 2 inches.

Generally these catheters are made of various types of teflon or silicone materials. The type of catheter material determines how long the catheter can remain in your vein. The length of time before the nurse needs to replace the catheter varies from about 1 to 3 days.

Remember that your catheter is a potential site of infection. Follow these instructions carefully to minimize the possibility of infection.



Flushing Your I.V. Catheter

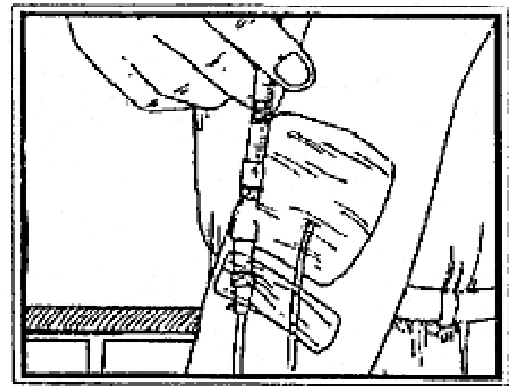
Flushing your catheter means infusing a small amount of solution into your catheter to prevent “clogging”.

Here are the steps for flushing your peripheral catheter:

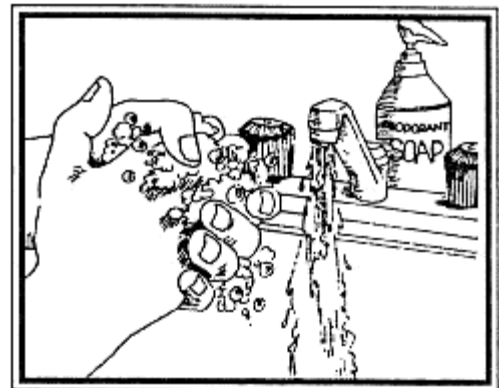
Equipment:

- Prepared Saline Flush Syringe/s
- Prepared Heparin Flush Syringe
- Alcohol wipes
- Waste Container

1. Clean your work area.



2. Wash your hands thoroughly.

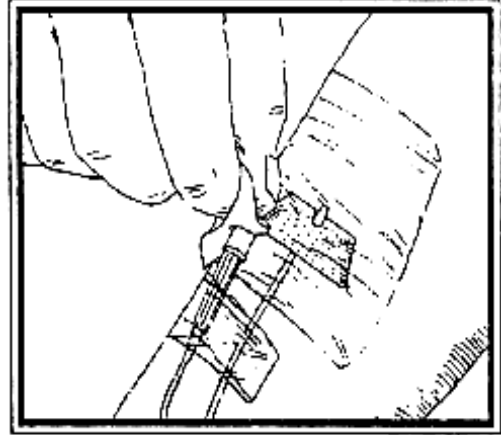


3. Prepare your flushes as instructed by your nurse.

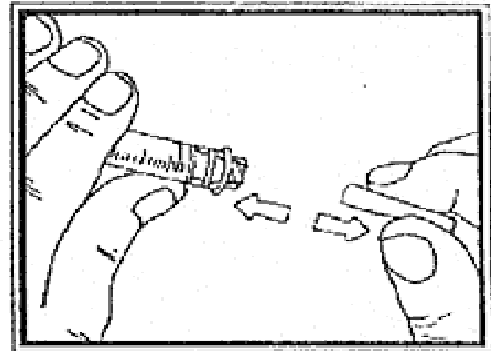
Flushing Your I.V. Catheter (continued)

B. Routine Flushing

1. Clean the injection cap thoroughly with an alcohol wipe. Using friction.



2. Remove the protective cap from the syringe.



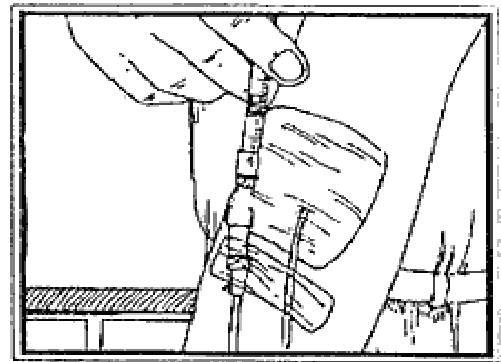
3. Insert the syringe into the injection cap using a slight twisting motion.

Slowly inject all of the solution into the injection cap.

Note:

If you feel any resistance, **DO NOT** use force. Refer to the Troubleshooting Guide at the end of this section before proceeding.

4. Withdraw the syringe from your injection cap, and dispose of it as instructed by your nurse.



Troubleshooting Your Peripheral I.V. Catheter

Your peripheral I.V. catheter will not interfere with your daily activities if proper care is taken. On occasion, a problem may occur. A list of some of these problems, the causes, and what you should do about them is provided below. Your nurse may provide additional instructions.

Problem	Possible Cause	What to Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHLEBITIS (<i>irritation of vein</i>) • redness at catheter site • red line following the course of the vein • <i>pain/feeling</i> of warmth at the catheter site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritating medications • Irritation from the catheter • Bacteria/infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your nurse. She/he may give you telephone instructions or make arrangements to see you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply a warm, moist towel for 20 minutes 3 to 4 times a day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INFILTRATE (<i>fluid running into the tissue rather than the vein</i>) • swelling while flushing the catheter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swelling while your medication is running ▪ Coolness or blanching of your skin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dislodged I.V. catheter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Call your nurse. She/he may give you telephone instructions or make arrangements to see you.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LEAKING 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loose injection cap ▪ Dislodged I.V. catheter ▪ Damaged I.V. catheter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stop the infusion ▪ Check injection cap and tighten if necessary ▪ If the problem persists, call your nurse.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RESISTANCE TO CATHETER FLUSHING ▪ MEDICATION WILL NOT RUN OR RUNS SLOWLY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roller clamp on tubing is not adjusted correctly ▪ Bag is spiked incorrectly ▪ Infiltration/phlebitis ▪ Tubing is kinked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check solution bag and spike connection. ▪ Check height of bag. ▪ Check to be sure tubing is not clamped or kinked. ▪ Try changing the position of your arm. ▪ Stop the infusion and flush your catheter with saline (or sterile water if instructed) and attempt to restart the infusion. ▪ If the problem persists, call your nurse.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I.V. CATHETER FALLS OUT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dressing not securing I.V. catheter correctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply gauze to site and tape in place. ▪ Call your nurse to arrange for a new catheter.

