

Flushing the Line with Heparin, Saline or Citrate

Central IV Line Care

1. Clean the table top with home cleaner and water, alcohol or bleach wipes. Let it air dry.
2. Wash your hands for 15 seconds with liquid soap and water. Dry them well.
3. Gather supplies (check the date on the syringes to be sure the medicine is not too old):
 - pre-filled saline syringe _____ ml.
 - pre-filled heparin syringe _____ ml.
 - pre-filled citrate syringe _____ ml.
 - alcohol pads
4. To break the air seal on the syringe: Keep your finger on the cap and push the plunger forward slightly.
5. Remove the cap from the syringe. Be careful not to touch the syringe tip to any surface. Do not touch the inside of the cap.
6. Point syringe tip up and tap the side of syringe to move the bubbles to the top.
7. Push in the plunger until a drop of liquid appears at the tip of the syringe.
8. Check to see that you have the correct amount of heparin, saline or citrate in the syringe.
9. Put the cap back on the syringe.
10. Scrub the end cap on the IV line with an alcohol pad for 15 seconds. Let it air dry for 15 seconds. Do not fan or blow on the area.
11. Take the cap off the syringe, and twist syringe into the end cap of the line.
12. If there is a clamp on the line, open it.
13. Flush the line using a push-pause, push-pause motion until the syringe is empty. Close the clamp if you have one.
14. Hold the end cap and twist off the syringe (be careful not to remove the end cap). Throw the syringe away in the trash.
15. Make sure the end cap is screwed on tight, but NOT too tight.
16. If you have a second line, repeat steps 4 to 15.

When to flush your line

You should flush after every infusion or as often as your nurse says. When not using the line for IV medicines, flush it every _____.

Problems?

If the medicine cannot be pushed in with ease: Make sure the clamp is open. Do not force it.

If the line has a leak: Use an emergency clamp to clamp the line above the leak. Then call for help.

If you have any problems, please call: _____

Only persons trained by a nurse should flush the IV line. Keep supplies away from children.