



IV Medication Using a Gravity IV Set

A Guide for Patients in the Home

Phone Number: _____

Nurse/Contact: _____

Receiving IV Therapy in the Home

Your doctor has ordered for you to receive your IV medication at home. Receiving IV medication in the home is safe and effective. Your home IV pharmacy and nursing staff are here to make your home IV experience work for you. We would like to share some basic information with you in this booklet. Please contact your IV nurse or your pharmacist if you have more questions.

What can I expect?

Giving My Own Medication

Being able to have your medical care delivered in the security of your own home is a comfort to many people. Patients and/or caregivers can easily be taught “high-tech” care in the home. Home care is self-controlled care. Self-controlled care means the patient or caregiver are in control of their care. Our staff of nurses and pharmacists will work with you and/or your caregiver to safely teach the care skills you need.

Schedule of Nursing Visits

- A trained home IV nurse will work to teach you and your caregiver how to give your medication and care for your IV catheter.
- How often the nurse comes will be based on your ability to care for yourself and your physical needs. Together, you and your nurse will make a plan as to how often the nurse will need to visit. Remember, once you are able to give the medication yourself, the IV nurse is still available to you 24 hours a day if questions or problems arise.

Supply Storage

- Supplies should be kept in the bag or bin provided until you are ready to use them. You will need to keep your supplies in a safe, low “traffic” area of your home and out of the reach of pets and small children.

Supply Delivery

- Your Advanced Home Care pharmacist will plan a certain day of the week that your supplies and medication will be delivered.
- You will receive a delivery **before** you need your new order of supplies and medications. If you run low or have to waste a supply or need more or less of a certain supply, please contact your pharmacist.

Medication Storage

Your medication should be stored in the refrigerator unless you are told otherwise. Here are a few helpful things to remember for refrigerated medications:

- Lay the medication out of the refrigerator before your dose time as instructed by your IV nurse. Lay the medication in a clean dry area.
- **Do not warm the medication using hot water, sun or a microwave oven.**

Disposal of IV Supplies and Medication

- All used syringes, IV tubings and bags of medication can be put in the regular trash can unless they have been used to give chemotherapy. All chemotherapy medications and supplies must be placed in a special chemotherapy waste container for safety.
- All needles used to give your IV medications must be placed in a needle box which Advanced Home Care will provide. Contact Advanced Home Care when your needle box is **2/3 full** for a new needle box to be delivered. When your needle box gets full, make sure that the lid is completely secured and place the box in the regular trash.

Bathing

- A tub bath is best to protect your IV catheter dressing from getting wet and loose.
- Cover your catheter dressing with a plastic bag or wrap and secure with tape. There are several brands of protective plastic type coverings for IV catheters available at various retail drug stores.
- Point the shower nozzle **downward** to avoid direct contact with the water.

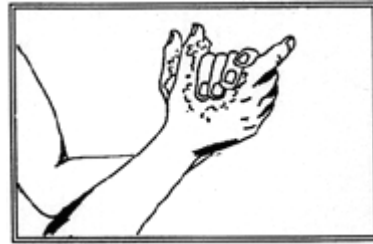
If your IV catheter dressing becomes loose, secure the edges of the dressing with extra tape. Contact your IV nurse to change the dressing. **Do not change the dressing yourself if you have not been trained to do so by the nurse.**

IV MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION BY GRAVITY

Step 1 **PREPARATION**

1. **Handwashing**

- Wash your hands with warm water using liquid antibacterial soap.



2. **Gather your supplies and lay them on a clean paper towel or hand towel**

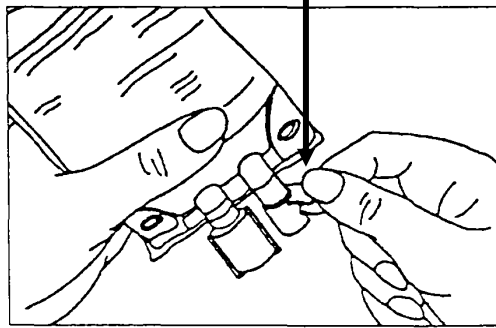
- 2 – 3 alcohol prep pads
- 2 – saline syringes (sodium chloride)
- 1 – heparin syringe
- 1 – IV tubing
- 1 – bag of medication
- trash can
- clock or watch with a second hand
- tape

3. **Check your medication for the following:**

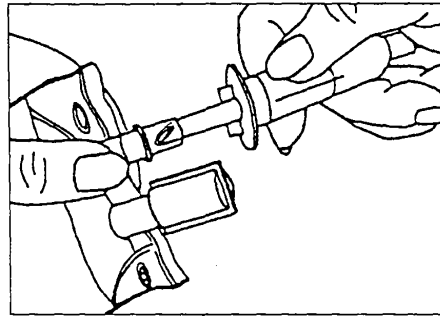
- Your name
 - Expiration date (Do not use if date has passed.)
 - Medication name / dosage / frequency
 - Presence of any cracks / tears / leaks / particles / cloudiness
- Do not use if there are any problems with your medication.
Call your pharmacy if you have a dose that you can't use.

Step 2 **Medication Administration**

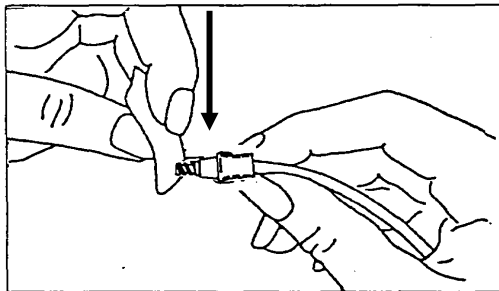
1. **Remove** IV tubing from the package and close the roller clamp on the IV tubing.
2. **Remove** the pull tab from the medication bag.



3. **Remove** the protective covering from the IV tubing spike. Do not touch the spike. Insert the spike into the port of the medication bag with a firm twisting motion.



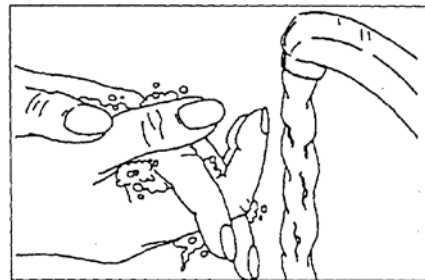
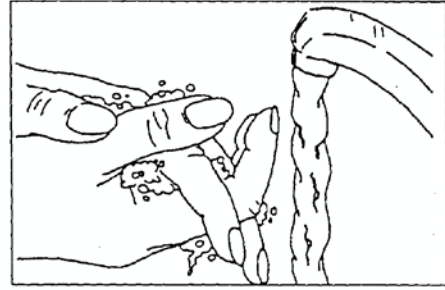
4. **Open** the roller clamp slowly to fill the tubing with the medication.
5. **Scrub** the catheter end cap with an alcohol prep pad.

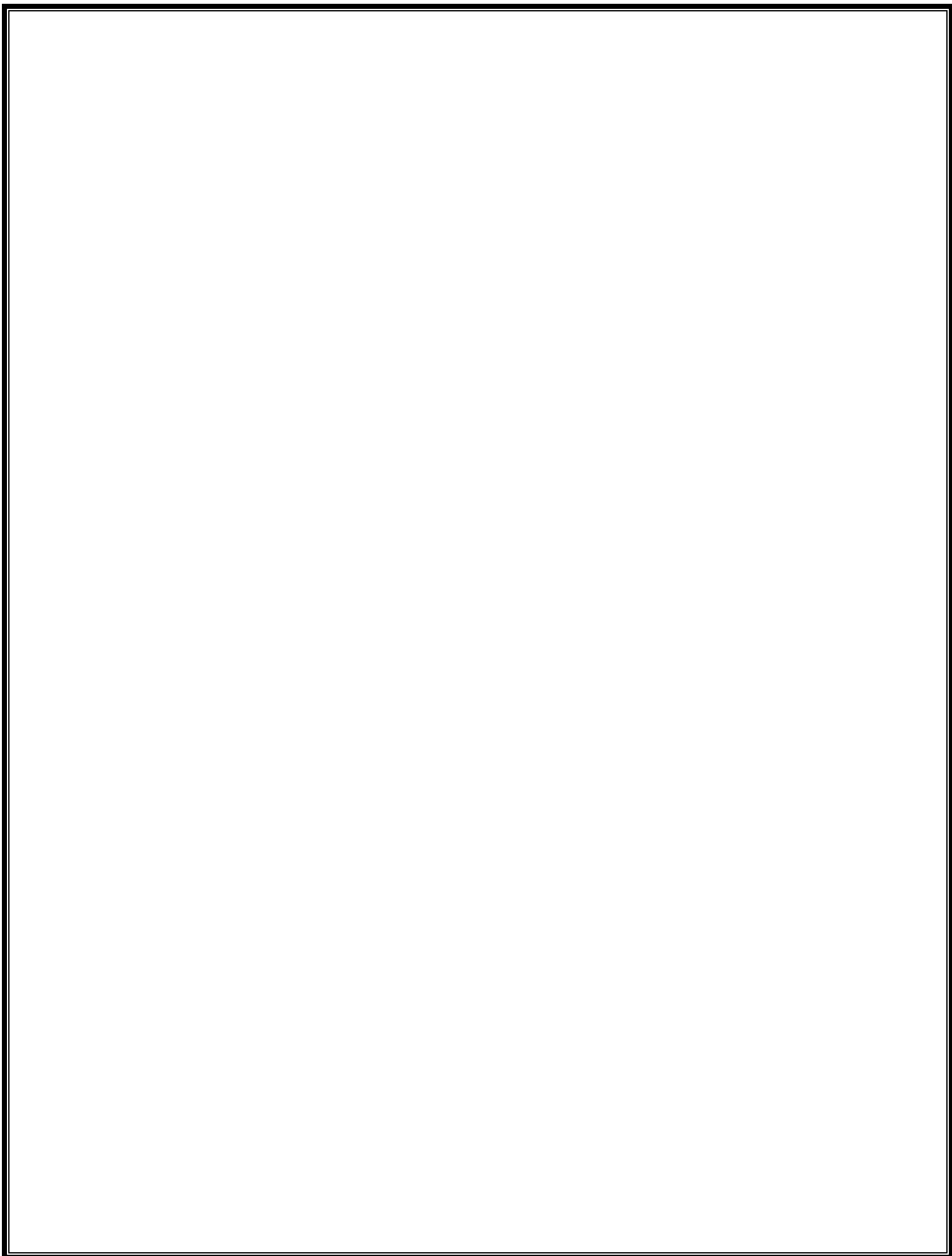


6. **Unclamp** catheter and flush with saline using a pumping action. Remove syringe, **then** close catheter clamp. Remember to hold the catheter end cap to keep it clean!
7. **Remove** the protective covering from the end of the IV tubing and twist the tubing into the end of the catheter end cap. Place the tubing cover in an alcohol pad, if you get more than one dose of medication a day.
8. **Open** the roller clamp slowly
 - Count the drops for a total of _____ drops in 1 minute.

Step 3 **DISCONNECTION**

1. **Wash** your hands with warm water and liquid antibacterial soap.
2. **Close** the roller clamp on the IV tubing. **Close** the catheter clamp.
3. **Unscrew** the IV tubing from the catheter end cap. Do not remove the catheter end cap. If the tubing will be reused, cover the end as taught by the nurse.
4. **Scrub** the catheter cap with an alcohol prep pad.
5. **Unclamp** the catheter and flush with saline using a pumping action. Remove syringe, then close the clamp.
6. **If ordered**, flush the catheter with the heparin syringe using a pumping action. Remove the syringe, **then** close the clamp.
7. **Secure** the catheter or IV extension to your arm or chest as instructed by the nurse.
8. **Wash** your hands using warm water and antibacterial soap.





Revised February, 2006