Giving Medication by IV Push

Medication:  Click here to enter text.

What do I do when I get the medication from HomeMed?

- Always check the prescription and label for final instructions.
  - check your name
  - medication name and dose
  - how frequently the medication should be given
- If the information does not match, contact HomeMed immediately at 800-862-2731.
- Check the syringes for expired dates, color changes, leaks and floating materials. If these occur, set aside and use another. Notify HomeMed.
- If your medication came in a cooler or insulated bag, store in refrigerator (but remove dose at least 2 hours before administering).
- If your medication came in a brown plastic bag, keep it protected from light.

What do I need to do to prevent infection?

- Work at a comfortable pace. The risk of contamination increases if you rush.
- Always wash your hands for 15 seconds with soap or an instant hand sanitizer before any procedure. Do not touch anything dirty, such as your clothes, glasses or skin after washing your hands. If you do, rewash them.
- If you wish to use an instant hand sanitizer, use one that contains ethanol in concentrations between 60-90%. Do not use an instant hand sanitizer if your hands are visibly soiled or you have a C. difficile infection.
What supplies do I need?
One (1) Prefilled medication syringe
One (1) Prefilled heparin flush syringe (remove from package)
Two (2) Prefilled saline flush syringes (remove from package)
Four (4) Alcohol pads
Household disinfectant or alcohol
Soap
Paper towel

How do I prepare for the procedure?
1. Place a trash can next to your work area.
2. Clean your work surface or laminate mat with household disinfectant. Let the area air dry.
3. Wash your hands as follows:
   a. Wet your hands and wrists under running water.
   b. Scrub vigorously with soap for 15 seconds.
   c. Work lather between fingers, under nails, over the palms and back of hands.
   d. Rinse hands well by keeping your hands up with fingers pointing up towards the ceiling so that the dirty water runs toward your elbows.
   e. Dry your hands with a clean paper towel from tips of fingers down.
   f. Turn off the faucet with the paper towel.
4. Gather your supplies and place onto your work area.
5. Wash your hands again.
How do I give the medication?

1. Check your catheter cap to make sure it is on securely (always hold your catheter cap while connecting/disconnecting to prevent accidental removal).
2. Unclamp your catheter.
3. Vigorously scrub the end of the cap on your catheter with an alcohol pad for fifteen seconds.
4. Hold the prefilled saline syringe upright.

5. Do not remove the cap. Press forward on the plunger to break the seal. Do not pull back on the plunger.
6. Gently tap the sides of the syringe so the bubbles rise to the top. Remove the cap and push the plunger to remove all the air.
7. Push and twist the saline syringe into your catheter cap to the right until secure.
8. Inject the saline solution. Remove and discard syringe in your trash.
9. Vigorously scrub the end of the cap on your catheter with an alcohol pad for fifteen seconds.
10. Remove the cap from your medication syringe.
11. Push and twist the medication syringe into your catheter cap to the right until secure.
12. Push on the medication syringe plunger and inject saline solution every 60 seconds.
13. After you inject all your medication, remove the syringe and discard in your trash.

➢ Repeat steps 2-8 to flush your catheter cap with saline then heparin. Do leave a small amount of heparin in the syringe, and clamp your catheter before removing the syringe.
How can I remember the steps?
Follow S-A-S-H when you give the medication:

- S - saline flush
- A - administer medication
- S - saline flush
- H - heparin flush

In summary: These are the steps to follow when you give your medication IV push:

- ✓ Wash your hands
- ✓ Flush your IV catheter with saline
- ✓ Push medication every 60 seconds
- ✓ Flush your IV catheter with saline
- ✓ Flush your IV catheter with heparin

What do I do if I still have questions?

Call HomeMed. Our 24 hour number is 800-862-2731.

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