



## Equipment Overview

### INFUSION CATHETERS

Infusion catheters are hollow plastic tubes inserted into the vein when medications are administered intravenously. IV catheters may be in place for a few hours or for several weeks, depending on the type of catheter used in your care. Your home health care nurse or infusion pharmacist will show you how to use and properly care for your catheter.

#### Infusion Therapy Equipment & Supplies

When you receive your customized infusion therapy equipment and supplies through Amber Specialty Pharmacy, your home health care nurse will demonstrate how to use these specialized items. Equipment often used in home infusion therapy may include:

**Infusion Pump:** This portable device controls the flow of the infusion and is typically set on a table or carried in a fanny pack or backpack.

**IV Pole:** This is used to hang the infusion bags above your head to allow it to infuse via gravity.

**Injection Cap:** This screw-on cap connects to the end of the catheter. You or your home health care nurse will connect the administration set of the IV tubing to it. The injection cap on the end of your catheter needs to be changed every week. Your home health care nurse will provide instructions.

**Administration Set:** This is the IV tubing or pump cassette that attaches to the medication container and connects to your catheter. This is used to infuse your medication.

**Sharps Container:** This puncture-proof container is used to safely dispose of sharp items used to administer your infusion therapy. Sharp items may include needles or syringes.

### IV TUBING CHANGES

IV pump tubing should be changed every 24 hours if your infusion is intermittent and every 72 hours if it is continuous. Uninterrupted long-term infusions that have the tubing attached at the pharmacy should be changed only when the medication cassette is changed according to the expiration date of the medication in the cassette. Tubing should be changed immediately if contaminated.

### INFUSING YOUR MEDICATION

Gather all supplies needed for your infusion therapy at least 1-2 hours ahead of time so your medication can warm to room temperature.

- Wash your hands thoroughly.
- Check medication bags for leaks, discolorations or particles.
- Connect IV or pump tubing (when applicable) to the medication bag.
- Make sure all clamps are closed.
- Hang the medication on the IV pole (when applicable).
- Fill the air chamber below the spike point half to three-quarters full if infusing by gravity.
- Unclamp the tubing and let the IV fluid run through the tubing to remove all the air before connecting to the catheter.
- Clean the injection cap attached to your catheter with an alcohol wipe.
- Connect the flush syringe to the injection cap, and flush the catheter as instructed.

## INFUSING YOUR MEDICATION (cont'd)

- Disconnect the flush syringe and connect the IV or pump tubing to the catheter and start the infusion process as directed.
- When the infusion is complete, disconnect the tubing. Place a sterile protective cap on the end of the IV tubing to maintain sterility if your infusion is more than one time per day. IV tubing should be changed once daily.
- Clean the injection cap with an alcohol wipe and flush the catheter as instructed.
- When you are done using the IV tubing, you can discard it in the regular household trash.

### Injection Cap Change Instructions

The injection cap located on the end of your catheter should be changed weekly. Your pharmacist or home health care nurse will provide you with the proper instruction.

## GRAVITY INFUSION TROUBLESHOOTING

- If your medication is not infusing properly, inspect the clamp on the catheter or tubing, if applicable. If the clamp is closed, open it and attempt to continue with the therapy.
- Open the clamp wider to check for fluid flow into catheter. If it begins to drip again, set it at the specific rate instructed to you by the home health care nurse.
- If the medication still does not drip, check for any kinks in the line. Straighten out the line and try again.
- If the medication still does not infuse, close the clamp on the line and disconnect. Make sure a sterile cap is placed on the end of the IV tubing before setting it aside.
- Make sure the injection cap at the catheter site is cleaned with an alcohol wipe, and connect IV flush. Flush catheter with a syringe filled with flush solution.
- If there is any resistance in the catheter while trying to flush, stop and do not reconnect the medication. Close the clamp on the catheter and call the nurse liaison immediately.
- If the flush passes through the line with no problem, re-wipe the injection cap, reconnect the line and try to infuse again. For any further problems, call your nurse liaison or Amber Specialty Pharmacy.

## PUMP INFUSION TROUBLESHOOTING

If the pump alerts you of high pressure or occlusion, stop the infusion and reference your pump manual for specific solutions.

- Check all clamps on the catheter and pump tubing; if any are closed, open them and start again.
- If the clamps are open and the medication still does not infuse, check for any kinks in the line. Straighten out the line and try again.
- If medication still does not infuse, close the clamp on the lines and disconnect. Make sure sterile cap is placed at the end of the IV tubing before setting to the side.
- Make sure injection cap at the catheter site is cleaned with an alcohol wipe and connect IV flush. Flush catheter with a syringe filled with flush solution.
- If there is any resistance in the catheter while trying to flush, stop. Close the clamp on the catheter and call the home health care nurse immediately.
- If the flush passes through lines with no problem, re-wipe the injection cap, reconnect lines and try to infuse again. For any further problems, call your home health care nurse or the pharmacy.

### Contact Us

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