



Giving Medicine in Your Gravity IV

A **gravity IV** is a device used to deliver medication through your IV line. Medication is put in a bag that hangs on a pole, and the pressure of gravity delivers the medication into the IV line at a safe and steady rate.

Your nurse will teach you how to use the gravity IV, and how to **flush** your IV line. Flushing means filling the IV tubing with solution to keep the IV line from clotting.

Use this fact sheet to remind yourself of the steps for giving medication in a gravity IV and flushing the IV line. Unless your nurse tells you otherwise, you can discard all used supplies in the regular trash.

Medication information

Medication: _____

S.A.S.H. FLUSH

Saline: _____ mL

Administer medication

Saline: _____ mL

Heparin: _____ mL

Prepare

1 Clean your hands with cleansing solution.

- **Rub** your hands vigorously until they are dry.
- **Clean** your hands each time you work with your IV.



2 Check the medication label.

- **Verify** each label has your name and dose, and is not expired.
- **Call** your nurse or pharmacist and do not use the medication if the label is incorrect.



3 Lay out your supplies.

- Medicine bag
 - Warm to room temperature if desired. Set it on the counter to warm. Do not warm in microwave or hot water.
- IV Tubing
- Pre-filled flush syringes
 - 2 Saline
 - 1 Heparin — if needed
- Alcohol disinfectant cap



Connect IV tubing to medication

1 Close the tubing clamp.



2 Pull the cover off the medication bag.



3 Uncover the spike on the tubing.



4 Push the spike into the medication bag.



Prime your IV tubing

1 Hang the bag on the IV pole.

- There should be a little fluid in the drip chamber. If not, gently squeeze and release.



2 Open the IV tubing clamp.



3 Fill tubing with the solution.

- Loosen the tubing cap if the solution is not flowing, then retighten.



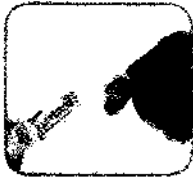
4 Close the clamp.

- Recap the tubing if necessary.



Prepare your syringes

1 Remove the syringe cap.



2 Gently tap the syringe to move air to the tip.



3 Push the plunger to remove air and extra solution.

- If difficult to push, pull plunger back slightly to break the seal.



4 Replace the syringe cap until you are ready to use it.



Flush your IV line

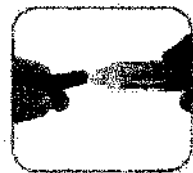
Flush with saline following the "How to flush your IV line" instructions.

How to flush your IV line

1 Remove the alcohol disinfectant cap and discard.



2 Attach the syringe firmly to the IV needleless connector using a push and twist motion.



3 Open the clamp.



4 Inject the solution.



5 Close the clamp.



6 Remove and discard the syringe.



7 Attach a new alcohol disinfectant cap after the final flush.



* If the needleless connector touches anything, **CLEAN IT** with a sterile wipe for 15 seconds.

Administer your medication

- 1** Scrub the needleless connector with a sterile wipe for 15 seconds if it has touched anything.



- 2** Attach the IV tubing firmly to the needleless connector.



- 3** Ensure the IV line clamp is open.



- 4** Adjust the rate to _____.

- It will run for about _____ minutes.
- **Stop** the IV before the bag is completely empty.

NOTE: Air cannot get into your body if the bag runs dry. But, your IV could clot if you wait too long to flush it.

After your infusion

- 1** Clean your hands with cleansing solution.



- 2** Disconnect IV tubing from your IV line.



If you plan to reuse the tubing.

- a** Protect the end of the tubing with a new cap.



- b** Leave the tubing attached to the empty bag until the next dose.



- c** Discard the empty IV bag in the trash.



Flush Your IV Line

Follow the "How to flush your IV line" instructions on page 2:

- **Flush** with saline.
- **Flush** with Heparin, if instructed.