



INFECTION CONTROL / HOME INFUSION

INFECTION CONTROL

The major risk of IV Therapy is infection. Sterile technique is very important in preventing infection. This helps keep supplies and fluids free from germs. This is very important.

The supplies and fluids needed for IV therapy have been sterilized, packaged and sealed to prevent contamination. To keep fluids and supplies sterile, follow these guidelines:

- » Always wash your hands! Use soap and water before using supplies or giving any treatments.
- » Do not use any fluids after the expiration date.
- » Check all fluid containers for cracks, chips or tears. Check fluid for discoloration, leaks, damaged caps or pieces of floating matter. If present, do not use.
- » Ensure that package seals have not been broken before using. Check the tubing, needles, syringes and swabs. If anything has a broken seal or if a package contains moisture, throw away the item.
- » After removing protective caps, do not touch the end of the tubing spikes or needles with your fingers. Do not allow them to touch any non-sterile surface.
- » Throw away any items you think may not be sterile. When in doubt, throw it out! Extra supplies are cheaper than getting an infection.

GLOVES

Disposable gloves should be used by any caregiver before coming in contact with blood, urine, stool or any body fluids. Wash hands after removal of disposable gloves.

HAND WASHING

The single most important practice in preventing infection is frequent hand washing. Using a liquid antibacterial soap, lots of friction for about 15 seconds, rinsing thoroughly and drying hands with paper towels is recommended.

Wash hands before and after:

- » Patient contact
- » Removal of gloves

PREPARING A WORKSPACE

Use a well lit workspace that is free of dust, drafts and clutter. Clean the surface with 70% alcohol or soap and water as instructed by your nurse. Use a paper towel on your clean work surface.

VISITORS IN YOUR HOME

You may consider asking friends and relatives who have colds, flu or infectious disease to postpone their visit until they are feeling better.

ELECTRICAL DEVICE SAFETY (INFUSION PUMP)

Follow these guidelines to reduce the risk of electric shock, fire, and injury:

- » **Do not** use the device while bathing or showering.
- » **Do not** place or store the device where it may fall or be pulled into a tub or sink.
- » **Do not** place or drop the device into water or other liquids.
- » **Do not** reach for a device that has fallen into water. Unplug carefully and immediately.
- » When your device is used by, on or near children or invalids, close supervision is recommended.
- » **Do not** carry a pump and IV pole up or down stairs if you (or your patient) are attached to the pump.
- » **Do not** push an IV pole across a loose throw rug or a high pile rug.
- » During an emergency evacuation from your home, turn your infusion pump off, disconnect the tubing and exit the premises by the shortest route. (If using an ambulatory pump, do not disconnect the tubing. Take the pump and tubing with you.)