



- **Keep the catheter clean and dry at all times.**
- **Protect the area from injury and accidental removal of the catheter.**
- **Examine your IV catheter site daily for any redness, swelling, drainage or loosened sutures. If any of these occur, call your nurse.**
- **Contact your physician if you develop a fever > 101°.**

In order to keep your IV catheter open, you must flush the catheter _____ time(s) daily using the following procedure for each lumen:

1. **Gather** the supplies you will need: Saline Flush syringe, Heparin Flush Syringe (if prescribed), alcohol wipes and wastebasket.
2. **Wash** your hands with soap and warm water. Dry with paper towel or clean, dry towel.

FLUSHING YOUR CATHETER (Follow this procedure for EACH Flush)

1. Remove the Flush syringe from the plastic wrapper.
2. Leaving the cap on the end of the syringe, hold the syringe upright and push on the plunger to break the seal inside the syringe.
3. Open an alcohol wipe.
4. Remove the cap from the end of the syringe. To keep the end of the syringe sterile, do not touch the end of the syringe with your fingers or anything else (if you accidentally touch the tip, discard the syringe and use a new one). Holding the syringe upright, gently push on the plunger to remove any air.
5. While holding the flush syringe in one hand, use the other hand to **scrub** the cap on the end of the IV catheter with the alcohol wipe for 30 seconds. Let dry.
6. Attach the flush syringe to the cap on the end of the IV catheter by pushing it into the cap and screwing it on.
7. Make sure that all clamps on the extension set and IV catheter are open.
8. Gently push on the plunger to flush the catheter with the specified amount. **If at this point, any resistance, pain or swelling is noted, STOP IMMEDIATELY and call your nurse.**

9. **Follow this same procedure each time you flush your catheter with saline and / or heparin.**
10. After your last flush, if instructed by your nurse, clamp your IV catheter.

Flush each lumen of your catheter as follows:

Saline flush _____ mls _____ times per day at _____

Heparin flush _____ mls _____ times per day at _____