



New England
Life Care

Home Infusion Therapy Services

Caring for Your Tunneled IV Catheter

(when catheter not in use for infusion of medications)

- **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 or drainage. 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. **Wash** your hands with soap and warm water. Dry with paper towel or clean, dry towel.
2. **Gather** the supplies you will need: Saline Flush syringe, Heparin Flush Syringe (if prescribed), alcohol wipes
3. **Flush the catheter:**
 - a) Cleanse the injection site on the end of your IV catheter with an alcohol wipe. Let dry.
 - b) Remove the Flush syringe from the wrapper.
 - c) Remove the protective cover from the end of the syringe (be careful not to touch the end of the syringe with your fingers as this would contaminate it and require you to use a new syringe)
 - d) Gently pull back on the plunger of the syringe to break the internal seal.
 - e) Holding the syringe with the tip pointed toward the ceiling, gently push on the plunger to expel any air until a drop of fluid shows on the tip.
 - f) Attach the flush syringe to the injection site on the end of the IV catheter extension set by pushing and screwing it on.
 - g) Unclamp your IV catheter extension set.
 - h) Gently push on the plunger to flush the catheter. If at this point, any resistance, pain or swelling is noted, STOP IMMEDIATELY and call your nurse.
 - i) Clamp the IV catheter extension set and remove the syringe from the injection site by unscrewing it. Discard in the trash.
 - j) **If instructed to flush your IV catheter with Heparin, follow the same procedure outlined above.**