

How to Give Yourself Intravenous (IV) Medicine Using an Elastomeric Device

Giving Intravenous (IV) Medicine Using an Elastomeric Device

Your health care provider has ordered home infusion therapy for you. Infusion therapy is a treatment that gives medicine through an IV line in your hand, arm or chest area.

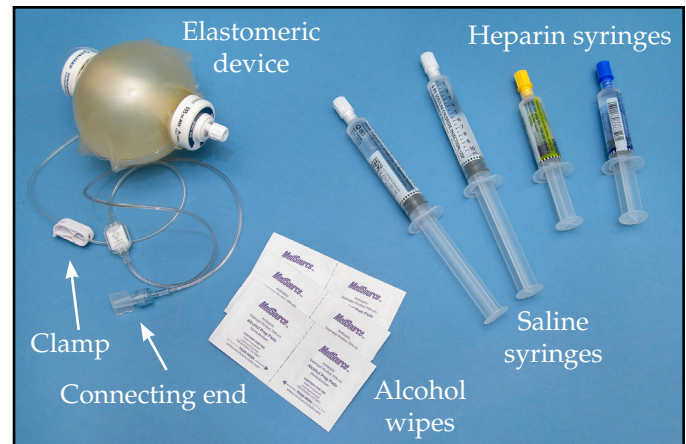
Infusion therapy is usually given in the hospital. However, it is possible for some infusion therapy to be given in the comfort of your own home.

You will be giving your home infusion therapy with an elastomeric device through your intravenous (IV) catheter.

Supplies You Will Need

You will need the following supplies to give your home infusion therapy:

- elastomeric device
- alcohol wipes
- 2 pre-filled saline syringes
- 1 pre-filled heparin syringe. You will only have one type of heparin (yellow or blue cap) syringe.



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Elastomeric device and supplies

What You Need to Do

1. At least 2 hours before giving your medicine (or as directed by your nurse), remove the elastomeric device from the refrigerator.
2. When you are ready to give your medicine, clean your work area, gather your supplies and wash your hands.
3. Prepare the saline and heparin syringes.
 - Remove the cap or plastic cover from the tip of the syringe. Hold the syringe so the tip points upward.
 - Slowly push up on the barrel or plunger of the syringe to remove air bubbles.
 - Hold the syringe between your middle finger and pointer finger (index finger) to keep the tip of the syringe from touching anything.

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4. Pick up an alcohol wipe. Open the alcohol wipe and scrub the end of the catheter (cap) for at least 15 seconds. Allow to dry for 15 seconds.
5. Screw the saline syringe firmly into the end cap or valve of the catheter. If your catheter has a clamp on it, open the clamp.
 - Push on the plunger or barrel of the syringe in a pushpause motion. Push (or flush) the saline solution into the catheter.
 - If you feel resistance while flushing, **stop** (do **not** force it) and call your home care nursing agency or home infusion pharmacy.
6. Pick up a new alcohol wipe. Open the alcohol wipe and scrub the end of the catheter (cap) for at least 15 seconds. Allow to dry for 15 seconds.
7. Screw the connecting end of the elastomeric device tubing to the end of the IV catheter.
 - Unclamp the tubing of the elastomeric device.
 - The medicine will start moving through the tubing. It should take about _____ minutes to give your medicine.
 - The elastomeric device does not need to be in a special position in order to work properly. You can put it on a table next to you, in your pocket or purse, or hold it in your lap.
 - When the device looks flat and the middle feels hard (not squishy), you will know the device has finished giving your medicine.
8. Unscrew the connecting end of the elastomeric device tubing from the end of the IV catheter.
9. You may throw the elastomeric device in the trash.
10. Pick up a new alcohol wipe. Open the alcohol wipe and scrub the end of the catheter (cap) for at least 15 seconds. Allow to dry for 15 seconds.
11. Screw the saline syringe firmly into the end cap or valve of the catheter. If your catheter has a clamp on it, open the clamp.
 - Push on the plunger or barrel of the syringe in a pushpause motion. Push (or flush) the saline solution into the catheter.
 - If you feel resistance while flushing, **stop** (do **not** force it) and call your home care nursing agency or home infusion pharmacy.
12. Pick up a new alcohol wipe. Open the alcohol wipe and scrub the end of the catheter (cap) for at least 15 seconds. Allow to dry for 15 seconds.
13. Screw the heparin syringe firmly into the end cap or valve of the catheter.
 - Push on the plunger or barrel of the syringe in a pushpause motion. Push (or flush) the heparin solution into the catheter.
 - If your catheter has a clamp on it, close the clamp.

Whom to Call With Questions

Call your home care nursing agency or home infusion pharmacy if you have questions or concerns.