

How to Give Inotropic Therapy at Home With a Pump



Allina Health

Phone Numbers

Health care provider's name: _____

Health care provider's phone number: _____

Home infusion company: _____

Home care nursing agency: _____

Other numbers: _____

Home Inotropic Therapy With a Pump

Your health care provider has ordered home inotropic therapy for you. Inotropic therapy is a treatment for congestive heart failure. It gives medicine through an IV line in your hand, arm or chest area.

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

The information in this booklet includes information for:

- what supplies you will need
- how to prepare the tubing and pump
- how to flush the lumen (end) without inotropic medicine running through it if there are 2 or more lumens on your catheter
- when to call your home care nursing agency
- possible problems (complications) and what to do if they occur
- activity information.

Important

Wash your hands before preparing your home inotropic therapy.



Supplies for home inotropic therapy

What Supplies You Will Need

- bag with inotropic medicine
- pump
- backpack
- alcohol wipes
- 2 pre-filled saline syringes (if needed)
- 1 pre-filled heparin syringe (if ordered)
- 4 AA batteries or a rechargeable battery pack

Important

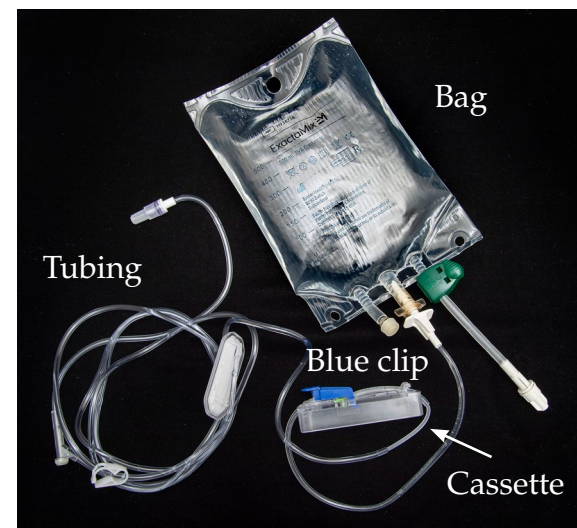
You will only have 1 type of heparin (yellow or blue cap) syringe.

Important

If there are 2 or more lumens (or ends) on your catheter, you will need to flush only the lumen without inotropic medicine running through it. **Never flush the lumen with inotropic medicine running through it.**

Preparing the tubing and pump

1. You will have a bag with inotropic medicine.
2. Pull the blue clip from the bottom of the cassette.



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Bag with tubing connected

3. Connect the tubing to the pump.

- **Press and hold the power button** on the right side of the pump to turn it on. The pump will do a self-check and beep when it's ready.
- Open the cassette latch to a 90-degree angle (as shown below). Attach the cassette to the pump by hooking the hinges onto the bottom of the pump, matching the plastic peg into the matching hole.
- Push the cassette latch to the closed position.



Connecting the tubing to the pump

4. Reset the reservoir volume.

- You should see *Reset reservoir volume to ...?* on the screen. (The volume will be specific to your infusion therapy.) **Select "Yes."**

5. Hang medicine bag on IV pole.

6. Prime the tubing.

- You should see *Prime tubing?* on the screen. **Select "Yes"** if the line has any air in it and is not already pre-primed.
- You should see *Disconnect tubing from patient, open clamps, then press "prime" on the screen.* **Select "Prime."**
- When you see liquid at the end of the tubing and no air is left, **select "Stop priming."**
- You should see *Continue priming?* on the screen. **Select "No"** if you see liquid at the end of the tubing and no air is left.

Important
Make sure the filter on the tubing hangs straight down as it primes.



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The buttons you will use to select options on the screen

7. Pick up an alcohol wipe. Open the alcohol wipe and scrub the end of the cap or the valve on the tip of the catheter for 15 seconds. Allow to dry for 15 seconds.
8. Remove the cap from the end of the tubing. Connect the end of the tubing to your IV line.
9. You should see *Start pump?* on the screen. **Select “Yes.”** You should see *Infusion is starting now* on the screen.

If There Are 2 or More Lumens (or ends) on Your Catheter

If there are 2 or more lumens (or ends) on your catheter, you will need to flush only the lumen without inotropic medicine running through it. **Never flush the lumen with inotropic medicine running through it.**

Supplies you need

- 4 alcohol wipes
- 1 or 2 pre-filled saline (sodium chloride) syringes.
If you have been instructed to do a flush with heparin, use 1 or 2 heparin syringes. The number of syringes you'll need will depend on how many lumens without inotropic medicine running through them you have.

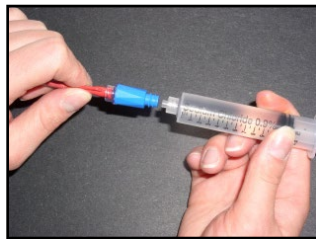
How to flush the lumen without inotropic medicine running through it using a pre-filled syringe

- Clean your work area, gather your supplies and wash your hands before starting.
- Remove the pre-filled saline syringe from the package.
- 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 from the syringe.
- Hold the syringe between your middle finger and pointer finger (index finger) to keep the tip of the syringe from touching anything.

- Pick up an alcohol wipe. Open the alcohol wipe and scrub the end of the cap or the valve on the tip of the catheter for 15 seconds. Allow to dry for 15 seconds.
- Screw the 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 push-pause motion. Push (or flush) the saline solution into the catheter. The push-pause motion creates turbulence in the catheter to clean it better.



Cleaning the catheter while holding the syringe in one hand. Be sure the syringe tip does not touch anything.



Screw the syringe into the end of the cap.

- **If you feel resistance while flushing, stop.** Do not force it. Resistance could mean the catheter is plugged. Forcing the syringe flush may damage the catheter or break off an internal blood clot in your bloodstream, which could be very dangerous. Make sure if you have a clamp, it is open. If you cannot flush the catheter, call your home care nursing agency or home infusion pharmacy.



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If your catheter has a clamp, be sure to open and close it as you were taught.

- If your catheter has a clamp on it, clamp the catheter when you are done with the flush.
- After flushing the catheter, unscrew the syringe from the end of the catheter and throw the syringe away.
- Repeat the steps for each lumen without inotropic medicine running through it.

Straining or heavy lifting may make blood back up into the catheter. If you see blood in the lumen without inotropic medicine running through it, flush it right away using the above steps. Flush again at the routine time.

Notes or questions for your home care nursing agency:

When to Call Your Home Care Nursing Agency

Call your home care nursing agency if:

- the catheter breaks or comes out
- you have shortness of breath or feeling of discomfort in your chest
- you have swelling of your hand, arm, chest, shoulder or neck on the side where the catheter is
- you are unable to flush the catheter with normal pressure
- the dressing gets wet or becomes loose
- you have a burning sensation when flushing the catheter
- bleeding at the catheter site after the first couple of days
- you have signs of infection, which may include:
 - a temperature of 100.4 F or higher
 - chills, shaking, body aches or sweating, especially when flushing the IV catheter
 - pain at the catheter or along the catheter where it lies under the skin
 - increased redness, swelling, drainage or pain where the catheter comes out of the skin.

Problems (Complications)

If the catheter breaks

- If there is a clamp, clamp the catheter right away.
- If there is not a clamp, bend and pinch the catheter so it is folded.
- Keep the fold in place with a rubber band or tape.
- Go to your nearest hospital Emergency Department right away to have the catheter repaired or removed.

If the catheter is accidentally pulled out

- If the catheter pulls out all the way, apply pressure over the skin area where the catheter was located.
- Go to your nearest hospital Emergency Department right away. (Bring the catheter.)
- Call 911 if you have shortness of breath or chest pain.

If the cap at the end of the catheter comes off and blood comes out

- If there is a clamp, clamp the catheter.
- If there is no clamp, pinch the catheter or fold it to stop the blood flow.
- Call your home care nursing agency.
- Clean the end of the catheter with an alcohol wipe for 15 seconds.
- Screw a new cap onto the end of the catheter.
- Unfold the catheter.
- If the cap at the end of the lumen without inotropic medicine running through it comes off, flush the catheter in the usual manner.

- If the cap at the end of the lumen with inotropic medicine running through it comes off, **do not flush the catheter**. Connect the end of the medicine line to the new cap.

Other Information

Activity

- Work, exercise and sexual activity can be done if allowed by your medical condition or as instructed by your home care nursing agency. Tape the catheter in place and make sure it is not pulled during activity.
- Ask your home care nursing agency if you can swim or go in hot tubs. You may not be able to do either if you are at risk for infection. Remember, the dressing and catheter cannot get wet.

Catheter site

- Call your home care nursing agency right away if the dressing gets wet or becomes loose, or if you have skin irritation.
- Look at the skin where the catheter comes out every day. Call your home care nursing agency if there is any new redness, swelling, drainage or pain.
- Avoid wearing clothing or fabric that may rub or catch on the catheter.
- Tape the catheter to your skin to prevent it from being pulled.

Stitches

- In some cases, the stitches (or sutures) are removed 2 to 4 weeks after the IV catheter is inserted. Ask your home care nursing agency if the stitches should be removed.

Identification card

- Always carry your card that identifies the type of catheter you have.

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



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