

How to Give Yourself Intravenous (IV) Medicine Using a Syringe

Giving Intravenous (IV) Medicine Using a Syringe

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.

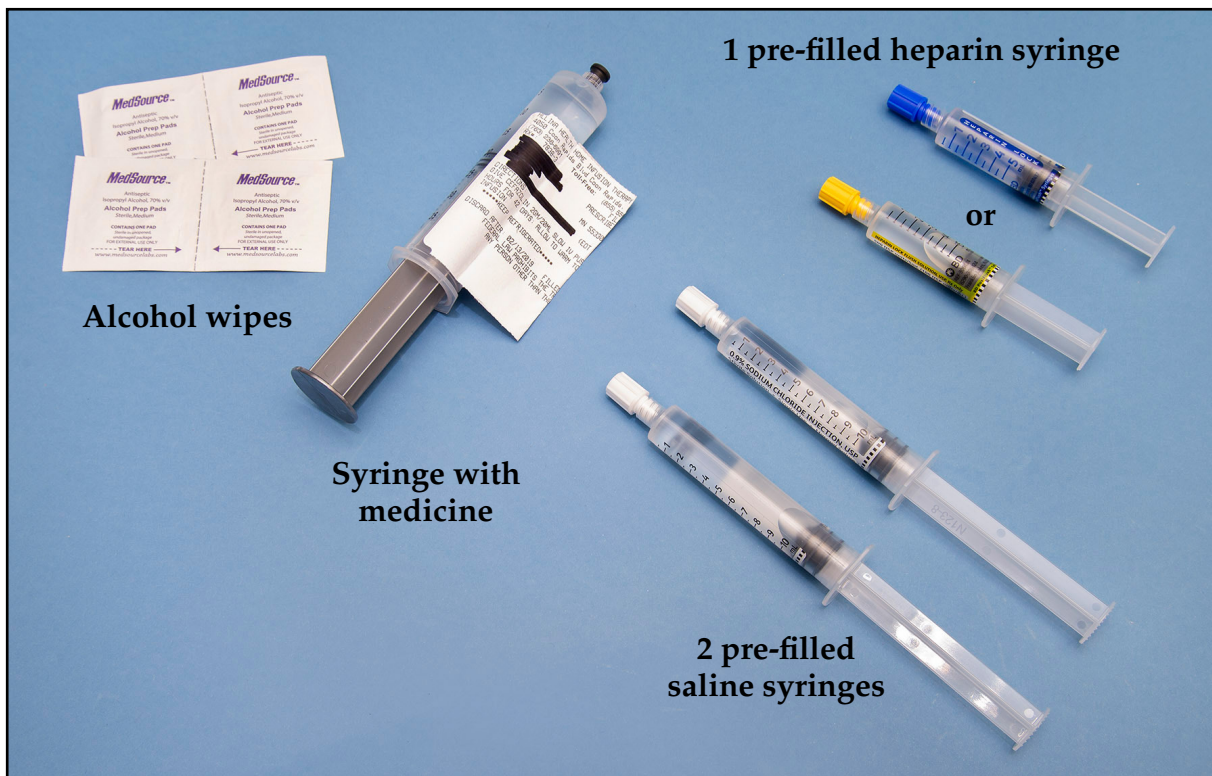
Infusion therapy is usually given in the hospital. However, it is possible for some infusion therapy to be given in the comfort of your own home.

You will be giving your home infusion therapy with a syringe (also known as “IV push”) through your intravenous (IV) catheter.

Supplies You Will Need

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

- syringe with medicine
- 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.



Supplies you will need to give IV medicine

What You Need to Do

1. Clean your work area, gather your supplies and wash your hands before starting.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 push/pause 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.
5. 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.
6. For this step, you will need a timer (or stopwatch). Set the timer for the amount of time your health care provider prescribed for you to give your medicine (typically between 3 to 5 minutes). Do not start the timer yet.
 - Screw the syringe with medicine firmly into the end cap or valve of the catheter.
 - Start the timer. Push on the plunger or barrel of the syringe **at a slow, steady pace** to begin giving the medicine.
 - When the timer goes off, you should be finishing up with giving your medicine.
7. 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.
8. Set the timer for the amount of time your health care provider prescribed for you to give your saline (typically between 1 to 2 minutes). Do not start the timer yet.
 - Screw the saline syringe firmly into the end cap or valve of the catheter.
 - Start the timer. Push on the plunger or barrel of the syringe **at a slow, steady pace** to begin giving the medicine.
 - When the timer goes off, you should be finishing up with giving your saline.
9. 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.
10. 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 push/pause 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.