

PICC Line Medication Administration

Administering Medication via PICC Line

Equipment

- Gloves – non-sterile
- 2% Chlorhexidine with alcohol swab
- 2x 0.9% 10ml sodium chloride (or posi-flush)
- 2 x 10ml syringe
- Drawn up medication
- 1 10ml syringe

1. Identify the client and obtain informed consent.
2. Hand hygiene with hand gel or wash hands and don gloves.
3. Decontaminate the catheter hub with 2% chlorhexidine with alcohol swab using friction for 15 - 30 seconds and allow to dry.
4. Attach flush – slowly aspirate until positive blood return to confirm patency and flush with 10ml normal saline using the push-pause technique.
5. Administer medications as ordered.
6. Flush with 10ml normal saline after delivery of medication. Remove syringe and count to 2 seconds, then clamp.
7. Ensure dressing is secure.

Administering Medication using a Medication Infusor

Equipment

- Gloves – non-sterile
- 2% Chlorhexidine with alcohol swab
- Prescribed Baxter infusor (removed from client's fridge 30mins prior to infusion)
- 2x 0.9% 10ml sodium chloride (or posi-flush)
- 1 x 10ml syringe

1. Identify the client and obtain informed consent.
2. Hand hygiene with hand gel or wash hands and don gloves.
3. Undo completed infusor from hub of line.
4. Decontaminate the catheter hub with chlorhexidine swab using friction for 15 - 30 seconds and allow to dry.
5. Attach flush – slowly aspirate until positive blood return to confirm patency and flush with 10ml normal saline using the push-pause technique.
6. Attach new infusor after checking against prescription and checking bubble of fluid.
7. Ensure dressing is secure and insertion site satisfactory.

What is an Infusor?

This is a lightweight, disposable pump containing medication as prescribed by a treating doctor. They are indicated for pain management, infusional chemotherapy, antibiotic or antiviral therapy. Usually with TCHS/Access clients it is an antibiotic infusion.

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They are designed to provide ambulatory infusion therapy. It is used to give a slow, continuous infusion via a central venous catheter (CVL) or peripherally inserted central venous catheter (PICC). This allows the medication to be given over several days using an infusor for home treatment. The medication is contained in a balloon reservoir inside a casing. They are lightweight and discreet, requiring no programming. No batteries are used in the infusor and it does not make any noise.

When filled with medication, the balloon deflates and slowly pushes the treatment up through the central venous catheter or PICC at a fixed rate. As this happens, the balloon gradually becomes smaller and moves down the scale on the side of the outer casing. The Infusor enables patients to receive continuous treatment safely in their own home, it also allows full mobilisation. It is supplied with a bag which is worn around the client's waist.

Always follow advice from prescribing medical professional, if any concerns.

PICC Line Patient FAQ's

Bathing

- The Infusor/Intermate device should not be submerged or exposed to a direct stream of water.
- Place the Infusor/Intermate in a plastic bag **or** on a flat surface outside the shower/bath.

Sleeping

- Place the Infusor/Intermate at approximately the same level to where the device connects to your catheter/port.
- The device can be placed on its side under your pillow.

Exercise

- It is acceptable to exercise with the Infusor/Intermate as long as the product remains close to room temperature and is not exposed to water.

Pets

- The device is safe to use around pets, but ensure that it is protected from chewing and playing.

Environment

- The Infusor/Intermate can be utilized during everyday activities (e.g. cooking) as long as the device is in a location where it can remain at room temperature and is not exposed to extreme heat/cold.
- Keep device out of direct sunlight.

Travel

- It is safe to travel on planes that have pressurized cabins.

Ensure client has contact details for emergency services, Specialist and/or General Practitioner and TCHS/ACH should they require support throughout their treatment plan.

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