

Drawing Up Medication

Please refer to your
“Getting Started with Infusion Therapy”
booklet for additional information.

This information is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. Always do what your doctor, nurse or pharmacist recommends.

Overview

You will be drawing up medication from a vial to add to an IV bag.

You will draw up:

• Medication: _____

Amount: _____ mL

• Medication: _____

Amount: _____ mL

Getting started

- Use a clean work area
- Clean your hands thoroughly using antibacterial soap and warm water (If no soap and water is available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer)
- Dry your hands with a clean towel

Gather your supplies:

- A. Medication vial(s)/ampule(s)
- B. Syringes with needles
- C. Filter needles (if drawing from an ampule)
- D. Alcohol wipes
- E. Sharps container
- F. Other _____

Drawing medication from a vial

- 1 | Remove the syringe from the package.
- 2 | Remove the plastic cap from the medication vial.

Appearance of vial will vary depending on the medication.

- 3 | Scrub the top of the medication vial with an alcohol wipe for at least **15 SECONDS** and allow to air dry.
- 4 | Pull back the plunger of the syringe to draw up _____ mLs of air.
- 5 | Uncap the needle. Push it into the vial of medication (straight up and down, not slanted). Inject the air into the vial of medication. (See Fig. 1)
- 6 | Turn the vial upside down. Adjust the needle so the tip is in the fluid. Withdraw the desired amount of liquid into the syringe. Double-check the amount of medication being withdrawn. (See Fig. 2)



- 7 | Remove the syringe from the vial and carefully replace the needle cap.
- 8 | Expel any excess air and fluid to the amount you have been instructed to draw up.
- 9 | Inject the medication into the IV bag as instructed by your nurse.
- 10 | Discard used supplies as instructed.

Drawing medication from an ampule

- 1 | Add a filter needle to the syringe by twisting the needle onto the syringe. **DO NOT** touch the end of the needle or syringe.
- 2 | Hold the ampule upright and tap the top to remove solution from the head space. (See Fig. 3)
- 3 | Scrub the neck of the ampule with an alcohol wipe.
- 4 | Wrap the alcohol wipe around the neck of the ampule and grasp the top with the thumb and index finger. With the other hand, grasp the bottom of the ampule. (See Fig. 4)



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

- 5 | Quickly snap the ampule moving your hands away and out from you. If the ampule does not snap easily, rotate it slightly and try again.
- 6 | Set the alcohol wrapped top of the vial aside (or place in sharps container).
- 7 | Hold the ampule at about a 20 degree angle downward.
- 8 | Insert a filter needle into the ampule taking care not to touch the broken edge of the ampule neck.

- 9 | Position the needle in the bottom of the ampule, beveled edge down. This will help to ensure you pull all the medication out of the ampule with the needle. (See Fig. 5)



Fig. 5

- 10 | Withdraw solution keeping the needle tip in the liquid.
- 11 | Withdraw needle from ampule and carefully replace the cap on the filter needle.
- 12 | Remove the filter needle and discard it along with the empty vial into a sharps container.
- 13 | Without touching the end of the syringe, attach a regular needle to the filled syringe.
- 14 | Expel any excess air and fluid to the amount you have been instructed to draw up.
- 15 | Inject the medication into the IV bag as instructed by your nurse.
- 16 | Discard used supplies as instructed.