

# Administering CVAD Medication **SKILL**

## Watch the Video

- ▶ Watch the DVD included in your kit or go [HERE](#) to watch the video online.

## Overview

- ▶ The two most common medications given through CVADs in the home are antibiotics and chemotherapy.
- ▶ When giving any medication through your CVAD, remember to always follow your steps and focus on cleaning the hub, double-checking that you have the correct medication and that there is no air in the line.

## Giving CVAD Medication

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### STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR AREA

1. Clean and prepare your work area.
2. Gather your supplies:
  - Two (2) sodium chloride syringes
    - One (1) heparin syringe (not for all types)
    - Two (2) alcohol wipes
    - Clean gloves
    - Medication
    - Tubing
3. Wash your hands the right way.

## STEP 2: MIX YOUR ANTIBIOTIC

- ▶ Some antibiotics are already mixed in a bag with normal saline.
  - ▶ Some antibiotics need to be mixed. They are effective for 24 hours or less after they are mixed. Those medications come as a powder attached to the fluids. You have to break a seal and mix them together.
1. Check the labels to be sure you are giving the right medication at the right time.
  2. Break the seal.
  3. Hold the IV fluids upright and squeeze the fluid down into the powder.
  4. Swirl the antibiotic container to be sure that the powder is totally mixed.
  5. Turn the antibiotic container so the antibiotic is on top and fluid is on the bottom.
  6. Squeeze the bag to push air into the antibiotic container.
  7. Release the bag and the negative pressure will pull the mixed antibiotic into the fluid mixture.



Check the label



Break the seal



Squeeze the bag and swirl the container to mix



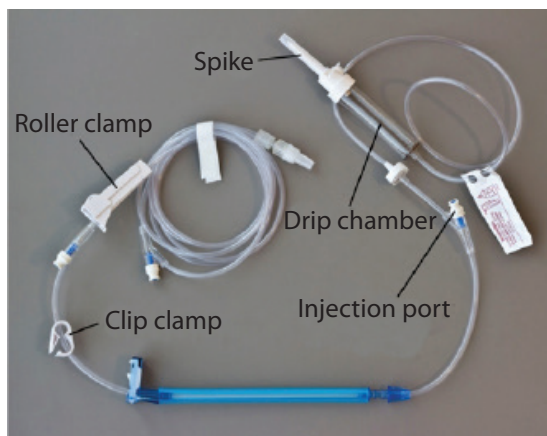
Flip the container upside down and squeeze the bag



Release the bag

## STEP 3: PRIME YOUR IV TUBING

- ▶ Priming the tubing means filling the tubing with fluid, which removes the air so that it can be safely connected to the patient. To do this, you need to attach a bag or syringe of fluid to the IV tubing and allow the fluid to flow through the tubing until it reaches the other end and all air bubbles are removed.



- ▶ Your infusion tubing will have a spike that goes into the solution bag, a drip chamber, and several clamps (roller clamp, clip clamp).
- ▶ If you will be using an infusion pump, your tubing will have a special section that will fit into the pump.
  1. Open the IV tubing supplies.
  2. Clamp the tubing.
  3. Remove fluid bag cap.
  4. Remove the spike cover and spike fluid bag.
  5. Squeeze the drip chamber and fill it halfway with fluid.
    - This will clear the line of air and get it started.
  6. Unclamp the tubing and prime (fill) to remove all air from the tubing. If you have a flow meter, set it to "prime."
  - Never prime the tubing over a trash can.
  7. Clamp the tubing after the priming is done.



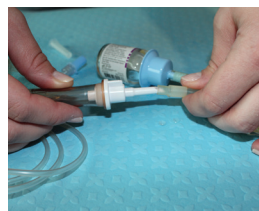
Open your supplies



Clamp the tubing



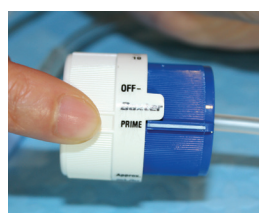
Remove the spike cover



Spike the bag



Squeeze drip chamber



Set flow meter to prime

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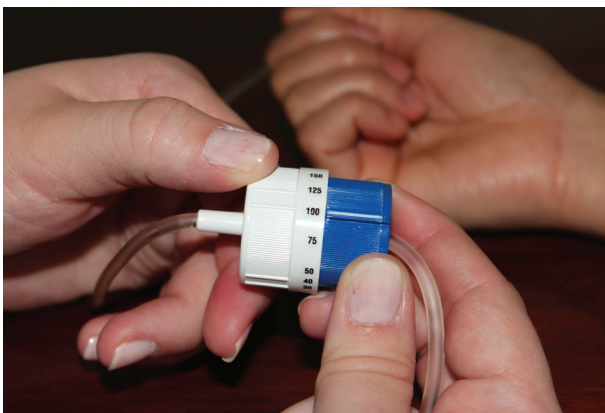
## STEP 4: FLUSH THE NEEDLELESS CONNECTOR

1. Put on clean gloves.
2. Prepare the syringe:
  - Uncap the syringe.
  - Hold it upright with the tip pointing to the ceiling.
  - Push out any air at the tip of the syringe.
  - Do not touch the clean tip with your fingers.
3. Attach the syringe to the needleless connector.
4. Unclamp the tubing.
5. Flush the fluids slowly.
  - This is usually 3 mL of sodium chloride for infants and 10 mL of sodium chloride for adults.
6. Clamp the tubing.

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## STEP 5: ATTACH FLUIDS

1. Attach the tubing to the needleless connector.
2. Set your rate using the flow meter (if you have one).
  - You will often have a flow meter that you can set to either the amount of fluid to be given or the time that it needs to be given.
  - Example: 100 mL to be given over an hour.
3. Unclamp the tubing.
  - This will allow the medication to flow.
4. Remove your gloves and wash your hands.



Set your rate

## STEP 6: REMOVE FLUIDS AND FLUSH THE LINE

1. Check to see that all the medication has been given (the medicine bag will be empty).
2. Wash your hands.
3. Put on clean gloves.
4. Clamp the tubing.
5. Detach the tubing from the needleless connector.
6. Recap the tubing if you are giving the same antibiotic again within a 24-hour time frame.
  - This will help it stay sterile for the next time you need it. The tubing can be used for 24 hours.
7. Flush the CVAD line through the needleless connector.
8. Remove your gloves and wash your hands.

