Step-by-Step: Flushing Your IV Line

Flushing Your IV Line.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 Seconds. Dry your hands with a paper towel and use it to turn off the faucet.

Clean your work area with disinfectant wipes. Dry with a paper towel.

Lay out your supplies on clean paper towels: Prefilled saline syringe; Prefilled heparin syringe, if needed; Alcohol pads or chlorhexidine wipes; Gloves; And a new catheter cap.

Wash your hands again for at least 20 seconds. Dry them with a paper towel and use it to turn off the faucet.

Put on the gloves.

Clean the injection cap thoroughly for 15 seconds using a twisting motion.

Allow the injection cap to air dry completely. Don't touch the cap after cleaning and don't let it touch anything else.

Uncap the saline syringe.

Remove any air bubbles by tapping the side. Then slowly push up on the plunger until a drop appears.

Attach the syringe to the injection port. Twist clockwise to secure it.

Unclamp the tubing.

Pull back slightly on the plunger to check for blood moving through the catheter.

This is a sign that the catheter is working correctly. Only check for blood with the first flush. If no blood appears, stop and call your Healthcare Provider.

Push the down plunger slowly. Don't force it if you meet any resistance.

Reclamp the tubing.

Remove the syringe by twisting it counterclockwise.

If needed, repeat steps 8-15 with the Heparin flush.

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Open the new cap, place it on the catheter, and twist clockwise to secure it.

Dispose of the gloves and other used supplies.

Wash your hands again for at least 20 seconds.

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