

I-190 R Flushing Central Venous Access Devices

Purpose

Maintain patency of the catheter.

Remove drug precipitate or blood from the catheter.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

- Disposable sterile gloves.
- 100 u/ml heparinized saline solution.
- Sterile normal saline.
- Alcohol wipes.
- Sharps container.

Special Considerations

Site will be inspected prior to flush. If there are any signs of inflammation or phlebitis, flush will not be done.

Concentrations of heparinized solutions shall not alter the client's clotting factors.

Volume of heparinized saline shall be equal to or greater than the volume capacity of cannula times two.

Saline flush is used prior to and after administration of medications/solutions that are incompatible.

Positive pressure within lumen of catheter must be maintained to prevent reflux of blood into cannula lumen.

Consideration shall be given to the syringe size used for flushing. The smaller the size, the greater the pressure generated.

The flush is to be done after every dose of medication and periodically as specified by agency policy or physician orders. For catheters not in use for infusion therapy, frequencies may vary from every 24 hours to weekly.

Procedure

1. Determine the frequency and type of flush and obtain physician orders.
2. Explain the procedure to the client. Position the client for comfort.
3. Assemble equipment, and wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
4. Don clean gloves.
5. Prepare saline/heparin injection (2.5ml 100u/ml heparin recommended).

6. Clamp catheter and cleanse injection port for 30 seconds.
7. Insert needle of saline/heparin syringe into diaphragm of injection cap.
8. Open clamp.
9. Irrigate lumen vigorously with injection. Maintain positive pressure on syringe plunger as you withdraw needle to prevent a backflow of blood.
10. Dispose of needles in sharps container.
11. Remove gloves and wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.

Documentation Guidelines

Document in the clinical record:

1. Date and time of the procedure.
2. Type and amount of flush solution.
3. The client's tolerance of the procedure.

Policy History

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Approved by	
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