

I-250 Flushing PICC Lines

Purpose

Maintain catheter patency.

Remove drug precipitate or blood from the catheter.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

- Disposable gloves.
- 100 units/ml heparin solution.
- 3.0 sterile saline solution.
- Alcohol swabs.

Special Considerations

Saline flushes will be used between doses of medications or fluids that are incompatible.

Final heparinization of the PICC line is done with heparin 100 units per ml. Flushes will be done after each drug dose or once per day, whichever is less.

Flushing is done vigorously. It should be done with syringes no smaller than 10ml.

Procedure

1. Obtain physician orders and determine the frequency of flush needed.
2. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing Procedure.
3. Don gloves.
4. Assemble equipment.
5. Explain the procedure to the client and position for comfort.
6. Prepare saline and/or heparin.
7. Cleanse the clave connector with alcohol for 30 seconds.
8. Insert needle of heparin or saline into the connector.
9. Open clamp.
10. Vigorously inject saline and/or 2ml heparin.
11. At the end of the flush, clamp the catheter.
12. Remove gloves and dispose of equipment/supplies as outlined in the Agency Waste Disposal policy.
13. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.

Documentation Guidelines

Document in the clinical record:

1. Procedure performed.
2. Dose of heparin and/or saline used.
3. Any significant findings related to the procedure.
4. Report significant findings to the physician.

Related Procedures

Flushing Central Access Devices

Policy History

Approval Date	11/1/2009
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