

I-290 Intravenous Pain Management

Intravenous pain management medications and patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) are administered via continuous infusion, intermittent doses or a combination of both. Nurse administering IV pain management must be knowledgeable of medications used, indications for use, appropriate dosage and diluents, administration, monitoring parameters, side effects, toxicities, incompatibilities, stability, storage requirements potential complications and both conventional and advanced methods of pain control.

Purpose

Provide effective and safe pain management in the home setting.

Document effectiveness of therapy and response to therapy.

Prevent complications.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

- Intravenous solution.
- Administration set.
- Heparin and saline flushes.
- Needleless cannula and adapter.
- Electronic infusion device.
- Gloves.
- Alcohol wipes.
- Tape and dressings as indicated.

Procedure

1. Educate client/family on medications, pump operation, side effects and potential complications.
2. Obtain baseline vital signs.
3. Assess patient's response to pain medication using appropriate pain scale.
4. Monitor for signs of respiratory depression, nausea and vomiting, pruritus, urinary retention, and hypertension.
5. Inspect solution container for leaks, cracks or particulate matter.
6. Flush access device as necessary.
7. Change peripheral and central primary administration sets every 72 hours, immediately upon suspected contamination or when there is question of system integrity.
8. Change primary administration set when peripheral cannula change is completed.

9. Use electronic infusion device (pump).
10. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for priming tubing and pump settings.
11. Instruct client on use of PCA infusion device including expected outcomes, precautions, and potential side effects.

Documentation Guideline

Document in the clinical record: Type of fluid administered, medication, dosage, route, rate of infusion, type of infusion controller, date and time of administration, and client response. Client pain assessment shall be documented carefully.

Related Procedures

None.

Policy History

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