



IV Pharmacy & Nutrition Services

455 Reservation Road, Marina CA 93933

Phone: 831.384.8080 Fax: 831.384.8065

# Drawing up medication in a syringe at home

## Preventing infection

It is very important to prevent infection. An infection might require removal of the IV catheter. The nurse will show you how to keep your IV site and catheter sterile, so that no bacteria will enter the catheter and cause an infection.

## Cleanliness is a must! Before each procedure in this education sheet, follow these steps:

1. Prepare a clean work area by cleaning a solid surface with household cleanser.
2. Clean your hands well, using one of the following methods:
  - Use an alcohol hand sanitizer (Purell® or another brand) according to directions.
  - If hands are dirty or alcohol is not available, wash your hands with antibacterial soap for at least 15 seconds, rubbing all surfaces briskly, including under fingernails. Use a paper towel or clean hand towel to dry your hands, and then use the towel to turn off the faucet.
3. Before each time you insert a needle into a vial, scrub the stopper for 30 seconds with a fresh alcohol wipe, using friction. Let it dry. Do not fan or blow on it.

## Drawing up medication in a syringe

1. Prepare the work area.
2. Clean your hands well.
3. Gather supplies:
  - alcohol wipes      • syringe      • needles      • vial of medicine
4. Put supplies in order of use on the work surface.
5. Check the labels on the vials to make sure you have the right medicine in the right strength. If you have a different medicine or different strength, do not give it. Call the pharmacy or home care nurse.
6. The first time you use a vial, snap off the plastic cap.
7. Carefully open the packages of the needed supplies.
8. Scrub the top of the vials for 30 seconds, using a fresh alcohol wipe for each. Let it dry. After cleaning, be careful not to touch the stopper with your fingers. If you do touch it, scrub it again with a fresh alcohol wipe.
9. Put the needle on the syringe using sterile technique. Do not touch the hub of the syringe or needle
10. Draw air into the syringe by pulling the plunger back to the line that marks the amount of fluid you need to draw up in the syringe.
11. Put the needle through the stopper of the vial.