

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-6 ADMINISTRATION OF IV MEDICATION

Policy:

- To establish guidelines for administering fluids or medications by intravenous bolus.

Equipment:

- Gloves and additional PPE as needed
- Antiseptic cleansing solution
- Syringe (large enough to contain the required amount of fluid or medication)
- System approved safety needle:
 - Preferably 18 gauge for withdrawing
- Medication or fluid to be administered

Procedure:

- Put on gloves and additional PPE as needed
- Assemble all necessary supplies and equipment:
 - Check for the six rights of medication administration, plus
 - Expiration date
 - Seal leakage
 - Contamination
 - Abnormal color
 - Cloudiness
- Assess IV for patency
- Confirm the order/dosage by writing it down
- Ascertain from the patient if they have an allergy to the medication or fluid you are preparing to administer
- Explain to the patient:
 - The medication administration procedure
 - Advise patient of effects and possible side effects that may result
- Obtain the fluid or medication
- If you are using an ampule:
 - Shake it down:
 - This will force the solution to the lower portion to prevent spillage.
 - Using one 4X4 gauze pad or alcohol prep:
 - Break the ampule
 - Affix the filtered needle to the syringe:
 - Withdraw the solution from the ampule
- If you are withdrawing the medication from a multi dose vial:
 - Remove the top of the vial
 - Cleanse the rubber top of the vial with an antiseptic cleansing solution
 - Draw up air into your syringe with needle attached to equal the amount of fluid that is to be withdrawn
 - Insert the needle into the vial:
 - Invert the vial
 - Inject the drawn up air into the vial
 - Keep the needle below the fluid level
 - Withdraw the required amount of medication or fluid
 - Withdraw the syringe and needle and invert the syringe and expel any air

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II-6 ADMINISTRATION OF IV MEDICATION (continued)

- Locate a medication port on the IV administration set and cleanse it with the antiseptic cleansing solution
- Insert needle with syringe into the medication port
- Pinch IV tubing above the administration site
- Administer the solution in a slow, deliberate fashion:
 - Be aware of slower administration rates with some medications
- Remove the syringe and needle from the medication port:
 - DO NOT RECAP THE NEEDLE
 - Dispose of the needles and syringe in an approved puncture resistant bio hazard container
- Release the pinched tubing

- In some cases, where more than one medication is to be given through the same IV line:
 - It may be necessary to flush the line between administrations
- Confirm the correct dosage administered
- Monitor the patient for:
 - The desired therapeutic effects
 - Possible side effects
 - Potential complications

Rupture of the vein:

- Rupture of the may occur if the medication is administered too rapidly
- Rupture may be avoided by administering the medication at prescribed rate
- Signs of injury will include hematoma at site and other possible complications dependent upon site of IV.
- A hematoma that develops at the IV site may be managed by removing the IV and managing any bleeding with direct pressure and gauze pads
- Contact Medical Control for further orders.

Monitor the patient for toxicity:

- All medications should be administered at the prescribed concentration, dose and rate
- Medications that are administered faster than indicated or in larger concentrations-doses than indicated may produce symptoms of toxicity in the affected patient.

Documentation:

- Who attempted/performed task
- Number of attempts vs successful
- PPE and equipment used
- Name, concentration and dosage of medication
- Site of administration
- Any complications or undesired side effects
- Were desired therapeutic effects attained
- Time medication administered