

STARTING AN IV

Preprocedure

- Verify orders
- Gather supplies
- Perform hand hygiene
- Identify patient with 2 patient identifiers (or per policy)
- Explain procedure to patient
- Raise bed to a comfortable working height

Procedure

Supplies

- IV Start Kit
 - Tourniquet
 - Antiseptic swabs or alcohol swabs
 - Transparent dressing
 - Tape
 - Gauze (usually 2x2)
- IV catheter (appropriate size)
 - 16g – trauma, rapid fluid administration
 - 18g – 20g – surgery, blood administration
 - 22g – 24g – children or older adults with frail veins
- Saline Lock
 - Infusion Cap
 - Extension tubing
- Pre-filled syringe with 5-10 mL of 0.9% sodium chloride solution
- Clean gloves

Identify an appropriate access site

- *Apply tourniquet 4-6 inches above planned insertion site*
- *Visualize, then palpate the vein*
- *Remove tourniquet after assessment, while setting up supplies*

Avoid

- *Varicose veins, Veins in flexion areas (except in emergencies), or hard veins*
- *Extremity with central line, AV graft, lymphedema, or paralysis*

Prepare your supplies within arms reach

- *Flush the saline lock with saline using the injection port and leave the saline syringe attached*



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Insertion

- Cleanse insertion site with circular motion, moving outward (must allow to dry)
- Reapply the tourniquet
- Remove the cap from the catheter and inspect for damage. (Discard if damaged)
- Using the thumb of your nondominant hand, anchor the vein below the insertion site and pull the skin taut
- *Let the patient know you're about to stick them!*
- With the bevel UP at an angle of 10-30°, insert the catheter into the skin in a smooth, steady motion
- Advance the catheter until you get a flash of blood
- Lower the angle of the catheter to almost flush with the skin
- Advance ONLY the catheter (NOT the needle) until the hub reaches the skin
- Stabilize the catheter with one hand, release the tourniquet with the other
- With your nondominant hand, apply pressure approximately 1 inch above the insertion site with your middle finger and stabilize the catheter with the index finger and thumb
- Remove the needle, activate the safety device
- Connect the saline lock and/or injection port securely
- Gently draw back on the syringe to ensure blood return
- Flush the catheter with 3-4 mL saline
- Secure the catheter with a transparent dressing and small piece of tape.
- Loop the saline lock or IV tubing on the arm and secure with a 2nd piece of tape
- Write the time, date, and your initials on the dressing

PRO TIPS

Loosen the cap of the J-loop (extension) *while setting up* to make it easier to attach with one hand
Best NOT to tape under the dressing for infection control purposes
Do NOT circle the entire extremity with tape

Postprocedure

Discard sharps in the sharps container
Discard all used supplies in the appropriate waste container
Remove and dispose of gloves
Perform hand hygiene
Return bed to low & locked position
Ensure patient is comfortable