

# Antibiotic Lock Therapy

## **BACKGROUND:**

Antibiotic lock therapy uses IV antibiotics to clear certain types of infections from IV lines, or to prevent future ones.

If you are using antibiotic lock therapy, you should put treatment antibiotics through the infected IV line.

Antibiotic lock therapy comes with heparin. Let your doctor know if you cannot take heparin.

## **Procedure:**

**Do not inject or flush through the antibiotic** Always remove the antibiotic lock solution before using the IV line! If you cannot remove the solution, call your nurse.

The antibiotic lock should stay in your IV line until the next time you use the IV line, or for up to 48 hours.

The antibiotic lock solution should be used in **each side** or end of the IV line.

Put 10ml of antibiotic lock into each side of the IV line.

## **Steps:**<sup>1</sup>

1. Remove the old antibiotic lock solution from the IV line. Throw this away.
2. Flush the IV line with saline.
3. If you are using the IV line for another medication, inject the medication based on the instructions.
4. Flush the IV line with saline.
5. Put 10ml of the antibiotic lock into the IV line. Do not flush it through.
6. Repeat these steps for the other side of the IV line.
7. Repeat these steps every 48 hours or each time you use the IV line.

## **Reference**

1. Justo JA, Bookstaver PB. Antibiotic lock therapy: Review of technique and logistical challenges. *Infect Drug Resist.* 2014;7:343-363. doi:10.2147/IDR.S51388