



# Preparing a Vial of Medicine in a Sterile Bag

Use this teach sheet to walk you through your infusions. Check with your home health nurse to ensure each step applies to you.

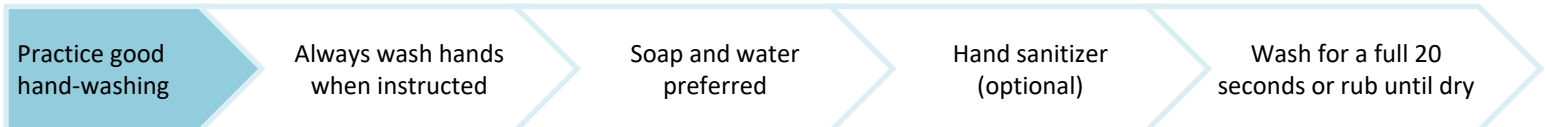


## Two Steps:

- 1- PRACTICE GOOD HAND-WASHING 2- PREPARE SUPPLIES

Medication(s) to infuse: \_\_\_\_\_

Home-care contact (name, #): \_\_\_\_\_



### STEP 1: PRACTICE GOOD HAND-WASHING

Always remember to **WASH YOUR HANDS** for a full 20 seconds.

- Soap and water is always preferred (hand sanitizer optional).
- Make it a habit to wet your hands, apply soap, and lather for 20 seconds (hum the Happy Birthday song twice).
- If using hand sanitizer, rub a dime-sized amount between your hands until dry. Never wave or blow on your hands to speed up drying.
- Remember, if you are using gloves, you must still wash your hands.
- Washing your hands helps reduce your chance of infection.



### STEP 2: PREPARE SUPPLIES

Note the time to start the infusion: \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM

Note the amount of time your medication should be left at room temperature: \_\_\_\_\_ MIN HR

Note the time to remove the medication from refrigerator (if refrigerated): \_\_\_\_\_ MIN HR

- Remove medication from refrigerator **BEFORE** the infusion.
- Do **NOT** attempt to warm the medication.

Double-check your medication to confirm the following information before the infusion:

- Medication has my name and date of birth.
- Medication name is correct.
- Medication dose is correct.
- Medication is not expired.
- *If any of this information is incorrect, stop and call your infusion pharmacy immediately.*

## STEP 2: PREPARE SUPPLIES

### WASH YOUR HANDS.

- Soap and water are preferred (hand sanitizer optional).
- Wash for 20 seconds (hum the Happy Birthday song twice) or rub with hand sanitizer until your hands are dry.

Clean your workspace and SAS or SASH mat (if provided) with cleaning solution and paper towels, alcohol pads, or sanitizing wipes.

- Select a dry, hard work surface to set up your medication and supplies.

### WASH YOUR HANDS.

- Soap and water are preferred (hand sanitizer optional).
- Wash for 20 seconds (hum the Happy Birthday song twice) or rub with hand sanitizer until your hands are dry.

Gather the following supplies and place on your workspace (do not put on top of your SAS or SASH mat yet):

- **4–5 alcohol wipes** (to clean your supplies and hub (IV line tip))
- **2 saline syringes** (to clear your IV line)
- **1 heparin syringe** (to clear your IV line and prevent blockage; if prescribed; most do not need this)
- **1 bag of fluid and a vial of medication powder**
- **Medication orders** (to check the infusion rate)
- **1 set of gravity tubing OR flow regulator tubing** (tubing can be reused within 24-hours for the SAME medication)
- **1 red cap** (to protect the end of your tubing between infusions)
- **1 IV pole** (to hang your IV medication)

Arrange your alcohol wipes, wrapped syringes, medication bag and medication tubing above your SAS or SASH mat in their respective location. Do not place any of these items on top of your SAS or SASH mat yet.

- “S” = Saline
- “A” = Administer or Antibiotic (includes your bag, vial, tubing set and red cap)
- “S” = Saline
- “H” = Heparin (if prescribed)

### WASH YOUR HANDS.

- Soap and water are preferred (hand sanitizer optional).
- Wash for 20 seconds (hum the Happy Birthday song twice) or rub with hand sanitizer until your hands are dry.

Unwrap both saline syringes and the heparin syringe if prescribed. Place the syringes in the correct location on top of your SAS or SASH mat.

Remove the mini-bag from the plastic wrapping. Place the mini-bag in the correct location (“A”) **on top** of your SAS or SASH mat.

Inspect the mini-bag and vial for any leakage, damage or discoloration. *If you have any of these or other concerns with your medication, contact your home infusion pharmacy immediately.*

Remove your gravity or flow regulator tubing set from the plastic wrapping if you are preparing for your first infusion of the day. Close the clamp on the tubing. Place it in the correct location (“A”) on top of your SAS or SASH mat.

Do not unwrap the red cap yet. Keep it above the “A” of your SAS or SASH mat.

## STEP 2: PREPARE SUPPLIES

- Grasp the bag in one hand and the vial in the other.
- Bend the connection between the bag and the vial until you feel the plastic stopper break.
- Hold the bag above the vial and squeeze to push fluid from the bag to the vial.
- If the fluid is not flowing into the vial, bend the connection to break the plastic stopper again.
- Once fluid has entered the vial, shake the vial to dissolve the powder.
- Hold the vial above the bag. Squeeze air from the bag into the vial to force the dissolved medication from the vial into the bag.
- Repeat these mixing steps until all the powder is dissolved and the fluid is in the bag. It is okay if a small amount of fluid is left in the vial.
- Place the bag with medication in the correct location (“A”) on top of your SAS or SASH mat.
- Follow the steps in either the gravity or flow regulator instructions. You will begin at extending your IV pole, right before spiking the bag.
- Congratulations on preparing your medication!

**Disclosure:** This project was funded under grant R01HS027819 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The authors are solely responsible for this document’s contents which should not be interpreted as an official position of AHRQ or of HHS.