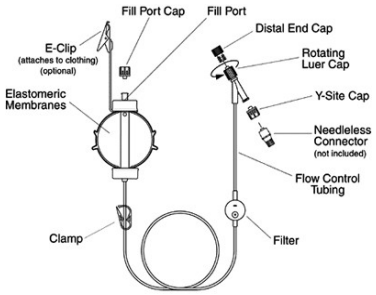
vitalcare INFUSION SERVICES

Using an Elastomeric Infusion Pump

Introduction

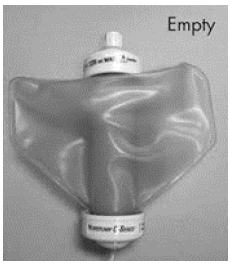
An **elastomeric pump or elastomeric device** are terms used to describe small medication pumps that are "balloons" inside of a protective outer cover. The medication is placed inside the device by the pharmacy. To administer the medication you, your caregiver, or a nurse will flush your intravenous (IV) catheter, connect the pump, and open the tubing clamp on the pump. The elastic walls of the device press down on the medication and "push" it into your catheter. Once it is empty, the pump is disconnected and thrown away.



Follow these basic directions to use your elastomeric pump correctly. You will receive additional detailed instructions from your nurse. This teaching sheet is intended to provide "reminders", and should be used in addition to detailed written and verbal instructions provided.

Basic Guidelines

- Your medication doses will be delivered on a regular basis, and are stored in the refrigerator. Keep a clean, dedicated area or drawer in your refrigerator for storage of the elastomeric devices.
- Remove your next dose of medication from the refrigerator several hours before you need to infuse it, as instructed by your home care nurse or pharmacist. If the dose is cold, it is okay to infuse but it may take longer than the expected time. DO NOT microwave or immerse the device in hot water to warm it.
- The size of the device balloon, and the type of attached tubing, will determine how long it will take to finish the dose of medication. Your nurse or pharmacist will tell you how long your infusion should take.
- You will know the dose is completely infused when you see the internal balloon is flattened inside the hard shell.



Supplies

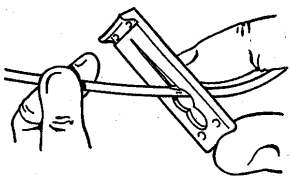
- Elastomeric device
- Saline Flushes (Sodium Chloride 0.9%; quantity 2)
- Heparin Flush (if you have been instructed to use)

- Alcohol wipes
- Soap or alcohol-based gel for hand washing

Steps

1. Prepare a clean working area.
2. Wash your hands as taught by your home care nurse.
3. Flush your IV catheter with saline syringe as follows:
   a. Remove protective cover from saline syringe, keeping tip of syringe sterile.
   b. Hold upright and push on plunger to remove air; do not allow anything to touch the tip of the syringe.
   c. Scrub the needless connector on your IV catheter for 15 seconds with an alcohol wipe.
   d. Push and twist the saline syringe into the IV needless connector.
   e. Open clamp on your IV catheter if there is one.
   f. Press the plunger to flush solution into IV using a push-pause method.
   g. Hold the IV needless connector while you untwist the syringe to remove it.

4. Attach the elastomeric device to your IV needless connector.
   a. Remove end-cap from elastomeric tubing, keeping the tip of this tubing sterile.
   b. Observe for fluid at tip of tubing. If no fluid is visible, unclamp tubing, and watch the solution until it reaches the tip of the tubing.Close the clamp.
   c. Scrub the needless connector on your IV catheter with an alcohol wipe.
   d. Push and twist the medicine tubing into IV needless connector.
5. Your medicine will infuse over ___ hours/minutes (circle as appropriate).
6. At the end of the infusion time, check the device to confirm it has emptied.
7. Close the clamp on the medicine tubing and untwist the device from your IV needless connector.
8. Remove the elastomeric device by holding your IV needless connectorby twisting the medicine tubing and pulling it away from your IV.



9. Post-flush your IV catheter with saline.
10. If instructed, flush your IV catheter with heparin.
11. Close the clamp (if present) on your IV catheter.
12. Discard the empty device and syringes.

Notes and Instructions

Your infusion information is as follows:

Your device holds _____ mL of fluid. It will infuse over _____ hours/minutes (circle as appropriate). You should remove the device from the refrigerator _____ hours before use.

Always wash your hands or use hand sanitizer prior to handling sterile supplies.

Always 'scrub the hub' of your IV needleless connector with an alcohol wipe for at least 15 seconds before connecting IV medication tubing into the needleless connector.

Once syringes or medicine tubing caps have been removed, be sure nothing touches the tips of these devices before they are inserted into your IV needleless connector.

Check your temperature daily, report if greater than 100.4.

Important Contact numbers:

Home Care Nurse _____

Home Infusion Pharmacy _____