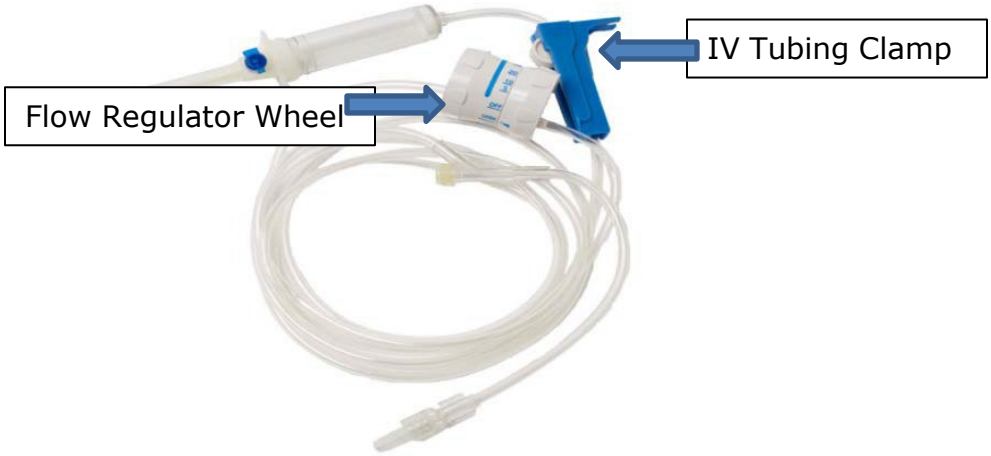
Using a Flow Regulator for Gravity Administration

Introduction



Disposable flow regulators are wheel-shaped attachments on intravenous (IV) tubing that make it easier for patients to control the flow of the medication through the tubing set. They are also known as "dial-a-flow."

Steps

1. Follow the standard instructions for gravity administration tubing. Your nurse will review this process step by step with you.
2. Open the tubing's controller wheel to the highest flow rate available or any setting named "open" or "prime".
3. Close the clamp on the tubing. It might appear as a thumb roller or slide.
4. Insert the sterile spike into the container of medication and hang from the IV pole.
5. Squeeze the drop chamber to fill half way.
6. Open the tubing clamp and prime the tubing free of air.
7. Close the tubing clamp.
8. Set the flow regulator to the prescribed rate per hour as instructed. Your rate should be set at:_____milliliters per hour (ml/hr).
9. Once connected to your IV catheter open the roller clamp, and count the number of drops per 15 seconds.
10. Your drop count for 15 seconds should be:_____. Your infusion should be completed in approximately:_____minutes/hours.