

Guidelines for parents for flushing of central line using saline and/or Hepsal

Equipment

- Clean washable tray (kept specifically for central line use)
- Non sterile gloves
- 10ml syringes
- Blue needles to draw up drugs and/or flushes
- Sterile syringe caps
- Sani-cloth disinfectant wipes
- 10ml ampoule normal saline
- 5ml ampoule Hepsal
- Sharps bin
- Pen
- If applicable drugs as supplied

Double lumen lines

If your child has two lumens, you will need to double up on the equipment listed above. You must use a separate syringe, needle and cap for each lumen. Each lumen must be flushed with 5ml of Hepsal using a 10ml syringe for each.

Procedure

1. Wash your hands thoroughly before preparation, using liquid soap and dry them on a clean piece of kitchen roll or paper towel.
2. Collect all equipment needed and lay it out next to your freshly washed tray.
3. Put on a pair of gloves.
4. Take the syringe and blue needle out of their packets and put the blue needle on the syringe. Ensure that all equipment is removed from packaging in the correct way, by separating the edges of the packaging and not pushing the syringe or bung through the packaging as this contaminates it.
5. Draw up 5ml of Hepsal (checking expiry date) into the 10ml syringe and put the empty Hepsal ampoule in your sharps bin.
6. Take off the blue needle and put it in your yellow sharps bin. Make sure there are no air bubbles in the syringe. Put the sterile syringe cap onto the syringe and then place syringes on tray.
7. Remove your gloves and wash your hands thoroughly again.
8. Take the tray with the syringes and sani-cloth wipes on the tray to your child. Lift up your child's clothing for free access to the line.
9. Put on clean gloves.

10. Fully open the sani-cloth and using several different parts, clean the bung thoroughly for 30 seconds and allow to air dry for 30 seconds. Once the bung has been cleaned it is important that it does not touch anything – hands, clothes, skin etc. If it does, it **must** be cleaned again with a sani-cloth wipe and allowed to dry.
11. Remove the sterile syringe cap and insert the Hepsal syringe into the centre of the bung, turning gently to screw it into place. If the syringe tip accidentally touches the outside of the bung, start the process again including cleaning the bung. Open the switch/clamp. Slowly inject the Hepsal into the line using a stop/start flushing technique by gently pushing the plunger, allowing a brief pause approximately every 0.5ml. Turn off the switch/clamp the line as you are injecting the last 1ml.
12. **If you cannot easily flush the line, ask your child to cough, change position or raise their arms. If this does not help, do not try to force saline/Hepsal into the line. Contact the hospital for further advice.**
13. Having flushed the line, remove the syringe and re-clean the bung.
14. Dispose of equipment in your sharps bin.
15. Wash tray, remove gloves and wash your hands.

Points to note

1. Bung changes are performed weekly by the children's community nurses or your local hospital.
2. Lines with a clamp, such as Hickman lines, must be clamped in between the 'clamp here' marks on the line.

For further information and help telephone Piam Brown day ward on 023 8120 4249 or Piam Brown ward on 023 8120 4816/4817.