



Expert in my pocket

INTRAVENOUS (BOLUS) INJECTION

Intravenous (Bolus) Injection



1 Preparing for the procedure

- Inform patient and gain consent.
- Assess IV site for signs of phlebitis or infection.
- Clean hands and don gloves to prevent cross infection.
- Gather equipment required for giving IV injection.
- With a second team member, observe medication order or cross check according to "5 rights".
- Prepare the medication in accordance to instructions or practice guideline.



2 Performing the procedure

- Clean injection port with alcohol swab and allow to air dry.
- Administer medication slowly or in accordance with instructions.
- Ask the patient to report any pain or discomfort during or following the injection.
- Flush the cannula using normal saline (or recommended fluid based on drug recommendations). Whilst flushing, observe the cannula entry site and surrounding area for any sign of swelling, phlebitis or extravasation.



3 Disposing sharps

- Dispose of sharps in sharps container, perform hand hygiene.



4 Documentation

- Document on medication chart that medication has been administered and have this counter signed by the second team member.
- Document as per facility guidelines that a flush has also been given.



5 Additional information

- If the patient is receiving intermittent injections the IV should be flushed under positive pressure after each injection.³
- Flushing is recommended to promote and maintain patency and prevent the mixing of incompatible medications and solutions.²



References

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Equipment required

- Hand sanitiser
- Clean gloves
- Alcohol swab
- Appropriate sized syringes and needles
- Medication
- Normal saline
- Injection tray
- Sharps container



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