



HANDLING SUPPLIES FOR HOME INFUSION



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Infusion therapy is a safe way to take medicines or fluids that cannot be taken by mouth. A nurse will visit and administer your infusion. Treatment will become part of your routine. Your supplies need to be kept sterile. Otherwise, they are not safe to use. Inspect, store, and dispose of supplies as directed by the nurse.

With infusion therapy, medicines or fluids flow through a flexible tube (catheter) that is placed in a vein or just under the skin—usually on your arm or chest (infusion site).



Inspecting your Supplies

- Check the bag or bottle for leaks, cracks, broken seals, and contents that are cloudy or discolored. Your nurse is trained to do this before each infusion as well.
- Check the package for your name and for the correct medicine or fluid. Also check the expiration date.
- Inspect all supplies to be sure they are sealed, clean, and dry, and have no cracks or tears.
- Please leave all supplies in the bag they came in until the nurse is ready to begin your infusion.

Storing your Supplies

- Keep your supplies in a clean, dry place that is out of the reach of children and pets.
- Store medicines or fluids as directed on the label. Some may need to be refrigerated.

Disposing of your Supplies

- Seal used dressings and tubing in a plastic bag. Throw the bag directly in the trash—unless the nurse tells you otherwise.
- Put used needles and syringes directly into the sharps container. Your local trash provider can instruct you about how to dispose of the sharps container once it is full.

Disposing of Patient-Specific Information in the Home

- Once supplies are delivered to the home or infusion site, the patient is responsible for the disposal of their own patient-specific information including prescription labels and medication packaging.
- Patient labels can be **shredded, torn, or blacked** out before being thrown out in the trash. Communicate with the infusion nurse at the start of your visit how you would prefer to dispose of this information.