

## GRAVITY DRIP TUBING

Some medications are stored at room temperature while others are refrigerated. If your medication is refrigerated, be sure to remove your medication from the refrigerator, as instructed. If you forget to take your scheduled dose out of the refrigerator in advance, it will not hurt you to administer it cold. However, it may feel cold as it is infusing and it may slow down the rate of infusion.

1. Wash Hands or Hand Sanitize
2. Prepare a clean work surface area.
3. Gather your supplies: alcohol wipes, 2 saline syringes (white top) and one Heparin syringe \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable), medication, GRAVITY tubing, red end caps (if applicable). The IV tubing is good for 24 hours. If you are dosing more than once per day, use the same tubing for each dose in a 24 hour period. Compare the medication label to the prescription in your home folder. Make sure the label has your name, the correct medication, correct dose and the “do not use after date” is not expired.
4. Re-clean your hands.
5. Unwrap your Saline and Heparin flushes and place on clean surface area.
6. Use SASH method: **S** – Saline (white cap)  
**A** – Administer  
**S** – Saline (white cap)  
**H** – Heparin (\_\_\_\_\_ cap)
7. Remove the IV tubing from the package and roll down the roller clamp.
8. Pick up your medication and pull off the flexible plastic tab from the IV bag (it is usually either white or navy blue).
9. Pick up your tubing and remove the plastic cap from the spike. **Be careful not to touch the spike before entering the medication.**
10. Push the pointed end into the medication by a pushing and twisting motion
11. Hang the bag on the IV pole.
12. Squeeze the drip chamber to  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
13. Roll the roller clamp up slowly to allow the fluid to fill the entire length of the tubing. Keep your thumb on the roller clamp to slow or stop the flow once the fluid reaches the end.
14. Clean the end cap or hub with an alcohol wipe for 15 seconds (“scrub the hub”).
15. Attach the Saline syringe to the IV line, open the clamp and flush.
16. Discard the empty syringe.
17. Clean the end cap or hub with an alcohol wipe for 15 seconds (“scrub the hub”).
18. Remove the protective cap from the end of your IV tubing and connect to your IV line.

19. Roll the roller clamp up about half way until you see each individual drip. Allow all the medication to “infuse” as ordered. Try and keep some medication in the drip chamber if you are going to reuse the same tubing in 24 hours. The height of the pole will affect the rate.
20. When the medication bag is empty, roll down the roller clamp.
21. Disconnect the IV tubing from the catheter. If you are going to use the same tubing for the next dose make sure you protect the end of the tubing by placing a red end cap to maintain sterility. If you have no more doses to administer (i.e. daily dose or it has been 24 hours) discard the tubing in the garbage.
22. Clean the end cap or hub with an alcohol wipe for 15 seconds (“scrub the hub”).
23. Flush your catheter with Saline.
24. Discard the empty syringe.
25. Clean the end cap or hub with an alcohol wipe for 15 seconds (“scrub the hub”).
26. Flush your catheter with Heparin (if applicable), then clamp your catheter.
27. Discard used syringes and medication in garbage.
28. Re-clean your hands.