

Administering Medications by IV Piggy Back

Level III

Purpose	<p>The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines for the safe and aseptic administration of medications intravenously through a secondary ("piggy back") line.</p>
Preparation	<p>* Can only be done by Licensed Nurse.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A physician's order is necessary for this procedure.2. Review the resident's care plan to assess for any special needs of the resident.3. Assemble the equipment and supplies as needed.4. The licensed nurse responsible for IV medications shall be knowledgeable of:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. indications for use;b. appropriate doses and dilutents;c. side effects;d. toxicities;e. incompatibilities;f. stability;g. storage requirements; andh. potential complications.
General Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Follow the medication administration guidelines in the policy entitled Administering Medications.2. Whenever practical, the First Dose of any intravenous medication should be administered in a controlled environment (e.g., hospital, ambulatory clinic, or physician's office).3. If the medication to be infused is the First Dose, obtain an order for an anaphylactic protocol before administering the medication and observe the resident for a minimum of one hour after completion of the infusion.
Equipment and Supplies	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prescribed medication in labeled infusion bag;2. Secondary administration set;3. Needleless access device/adapter;4. Gloves;5. Alcohol swabs or pledgettes; and6. Tape (optional).
Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inspect intravenous catheter site for signs of infection and/or complications at scheduled intervals and upon routine site care and administration set changes.2. Prior to administration of intravenous medications or solutions assess resident's:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. overall health status;b. cardiovascular status;c. history of allergies;d. baseline vital signs, height and weight; ande. laboratory/ test results and appropriateness of therapy.3. Review physician's order. Confirm type and amount of medication/solution, route, and rate of administration.4. Verify the identity of the resident.5. Inspect medication label and verify against the order.6. Check medication/ solution container for leaks, cracks, precipitate and expiration date.7. Ensure compatibility between medication and infusion solution.

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Steps in the Procedure

1. Perform hand antisepsis and don gloves.
2. Connect secondary administration set to piggy back medication/ solution bag.
3. Prime tubing.
4. Hang the secondary bag above the level of the primary bag.
5. Disinfect Y injection/access port.
6. Attach secondary administration line to primary line at the Y port using needless access device/adaptor.
7. Administer medication according to prescribed rate using electronic infusion pump or gravity flow-regulator clamp.
8. When infusion of piggy back medication/solution is complete, close clamp. Adjust flow rate of the primary infusion.
9. Leave secondary administration set in place until next use, or discard in appropriate receptacle.
10. Discard used supplies in appropriate receptacles.
11. Perform hand antisepsis.
12. Document procedure in the resident's medical record.

Documentation

Follow documentation guidelines in the policy entitled *Documentation of Medication Administration*.

Reporting

1. Notify the supervisor if the resident refuses the procedure.
2. Report other information in accordance with facility policy and professional standards of practice.

References	
MDS (RAPs)	K5a, K6, P1c, P8 (RAP # 12; RAP # 14)
Survey Tag Numbers	F328
Related Documents	Documentation of Medication Administration Intravenous Therapy: Preventing Catheter-Related Infections (<i>Infection Control</i>)
Risk of Exposure	Blood–Body Fluids–Infectious Diseases
Procedure Revised	Date:_____ By:_____ Date:_____ By:_____ Date:_____ By:_____ Date:_____ By:_____