

Appendix E: Administration of Sodium Chloride 0.9% injection intravenously (IV)

To confirm patency on insertion of a peripheral venous cannula by all staff registered and unregistered trained in cannulation. This procedure can only be carried out by this staff group on adult patients identified with a clinical need for insertion of a peripheral venous cannula.

These staff must have:

- undertaken intravenous cannulation training with a resulting knowledge of venous access devices
- been assessed as competent or undertaking supervised practice
- an understanding of the technique for flushing a cannula to confirm patency as part of the insertion procedure and why sodium chloride 0.9% for injection is the solution of choice
- knowledge of the potential complications
- evidence of competence should be documented and available to the relevant line manager

Method: As part of the cannulation procedure:

- Collect a 5 or 10ml ampoule of sodium chloride 0.9% for injection and if a non registered practitioner ask a registered colleague to check it.
- Place on your designated clean tray.
- Wash hands.
- Wipe the top of the ampoule with a chlorhexidine 2% & alcohol 70% swab and allow to air dry before opening.
- Carefully peel back the wrapper of a 10ml syringe and remove the syringe taking care not to contaminate the nozzle.
- Insert the nozzle into the ampoule, invert and draw up 5ml of solution.
- Protect the nozzle of the syringe by leaving it in the ampoule, or by placing back into the sterile packaging or by fitting a blind sterile bung to the syringe.
- Place the syringe on the tray with the other equipment needed for cannulation.
- Once the cannula is inserted, flush to confirm patency prior to securing the cannula with the sterile dressing.
- To flush a ported cannula – lift the lid of the port and connect the syringe firmly. Give slowly via the cannula using a pulsatile technique.
- Observe the insertion site for local swelling or leakage and ask the patient to report any pain during the procedure.
- If no adverse effects occur secure the cannula as per policy.
- Document the patency check when recording the insertion of a cannula in the patient's healthcare records.

N.B. This policy covers only the administration of sodium chloride 0.9% for injection as part of the cannula insertion procedure. It does **not** authorise flushing of existing cannulae.