

CNPBC Intravenous Guidelines - Checklist

Qualifications

- CNPBC approved intravenous/phlebotomy course or equivalent.

Aseptic Technique

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before opening and preparing parenteral fluids. (1-2 minutes)
- Only a sterile object can touch another sterile object. Unsterile touching means contamination has occurred.
- IV mixtures should be prepared in a designated, isolated clean area.
- Clean tops of multidose vials with povidone iodine, then wipe with alcohol
- Wear clean disposable gloves for any patient procedure involving puncture of the skin.
- Wash hands immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or bodily fluids.
- Change gloves after each patient contact.
- To prevent needle stick injuries, never recap used needles or bend or remove from disposable syringes.
- A sharps container should be readily available for disposal of needles and syringes.

Reducing Infection Risks

- Wash hands before touching any IV equipment or fluids and before starting an infusion.
- Clean the venipuncture site with an approved antiseptic – 70% isopropyl alcohol or povidone-iodine solution.
- Check equipment before using. Check solutions for particulate matter and expiry dates.
- Never reuse a catheter or needle.
- Always cover venipuncture site with sterile dressing.
- Treat every patient as potentially infected with HIV/HBV.

Osmolality

- Ensure IV solution to be administered is of acceptable osmolality (see appendix 1).

Managing complications

- Anchor cannulas well to prevent motion and reduce risk of introducing microorganisms into puncture wound.
- Adequately dilute medications.
- Use needle or cannula smaller than vein.
- Remove needle if signs of erythema, induration or tenderness to palpation.

Injectable substances

As per BC Naturopathic Physician's schedule of preparations.