

## ► Saline Lock

A saline lock is used to provide IV access in patients who do not require continuous infusion of solutions and administration of multiple medications is not anticipated. If a saline lock is in place, it may be used to administer one to two medications in an emergent situation, prior to connecting a primed IV line.

### » **Indications**

- Any patient where placement of a prophylactic IV line is appropriate

### » **Contraindications**

- Patient presentations which may require IV fluid replacement or multiple IV medication administrations
- Patients requiring administration of D50

### » **Equipment**

- ✓ IV start pak or equivalent
- ✓ Intravenous catheter of appropriate gauge (not to be used with 24 gauge catheters).
- ✓ Saline lock catheter plug with short extension
- ✓ 3ml syringe
- ✓ Sterile normal saline (3-5ml)

### » **Procedure**

- 1) Explain the procedure to the patient.
- 2) Remove catheter plug and attached extension set from package and prime with normal saline.
- 3) Prepare the site for venipuncture.
- 4) After venipuncture, secure extension set to hub of catheter and affix to patient's skin.
- 5) Prep rubber stopper on saline lock, insert needle, and slowly flush with at least 3ml of normal saline while observing for signs of infiltration.
- 6) While injecting the last .2ml of normal saline, continue exerting pressure on the syringe plunger while withdrawing the needle from the saline lock.
- 7) If a medication is administered via the saline lock, flush with at least 3ml of normal saline following administration of the medication.

**NOTE:** If the patient requires fluid bolus or administration of multiple medications, remove saline lock and secure primed IV tubing to catheter.