Infusion Therapy – Intravenous Infusion: Secondary Intravenous/Piggyback

SECTION: 25.21

Strength of Evidence Level: 3

PURPOSE:
To allow the concurrent or intermittent administration of more than one solution or medication via the same insertion site.

CONSIDERATIONS:
1. Review physician's order for the type of medication and solution amount to be infused.
2. Review the actions, usual dose, indications for use, side effects and incompatibilities of the solution and medications to be used.
3. Use injection site closest to infusion solution container if using secondary administration set. If using standard administration set or connecting tubing, use injection site (Y-site) on tubing closest to the patient.
4. (See Infusion Therapy– Changing IV Solution Container and Tubing.)
5. If piggyback does not run concurrent with main solution, elevate piggyback higher until it begins to drip and is completed.
6. Use at least 2 patient identifiers prior to administering medications.
7. Per Joint Commission recommendations, all tubes and catheters should be labeled to prevent the possibility of tubing misconnections. Staff should emphasize to all patients the importance of contacting a clinical staff member for assistance when there is an identified need to disconnect or reconnect devices.

EQUIPMENT:
Gloves
Secondary medication/solution
Piggyback administration set
Alcohol applicator (wipe/swab/disk/ampule)
Tape
Needle or needle less adaptor
Puncture-proof container
Impervious trash bag

PROCEDURE:
1. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
2. Explain procedure and purpose to patient/caregiver.
3. Assemble equipment on a clean surface close to the patient.
4. Place patient in comfortable position, making sure that site is accessible.
5. Ensure adequate lighting.
6. Remove administration set from package and close roller clamp.
7. Invert medication/solution container, remove protective cover and insert administration set spike.
8. Attach sterile needle to end of administration set or needle less adaptor if primary set is a needle less system.
9. Squeeze drip chamber until half full and prime tubing to remove air.
10. Wipe injection site (Y-site) of primary IV with alcohol applicator, using friction. Allow to air dry.
11. Insert needle or needle less adaptor into Y-site and tape securely.
12. Regulate flow rate of piggyback line, using roller clamp.
   [Note: May need to adjust flow rate on primary IV line to facilitate flow of piggyback.]
13. To discontinue piggyback at completion:
   a. Close roller clamp.
   b. Remove piggyback administration set (with or without needle).
14. Recheck flow rate of primary IV line and time for accuracy.
15. Discard soiled supplies in appropriate containers.

AFTER CARE:
1. Document in patient's record:
   a. Time, amount of solution/medication infused.
   b. Type and appearance of venous access site.
   c. Patient's response to procedure, side effects and management.
   d. Instructions given to patient/caregiver.
   e. Communication with physician.