

## Infusion Care: Reducing the Risk of Bloodstream Infections at Home

Follow these steps to lower the risk of your child getting a bloodstream infection (bacteremia). If you need help, call Home Care Services with your safety concerns.

### Wash your hands often

Remember: Hand washing is the number one thing you can do to prevent infections!

- Ask family members and visitors to wash their hands when they come inside your home.
- Wash your hands before touching or holding your child.
- Place hand sanitizer gel in different rooms throughout your home, even the car, and use it often.
- Wash your child's hands often while in your home and after being out in public.
- Older children can use hand sanitizer gel when out in public.

### Store supplies safely

If using TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition) and medicines, keep them in the refrigerator in Ziploc bags and in separate drawers. Wash these refrigerator drawers once a week. You will want to keep all other supplies in separate drawers, cabinets or closets. Be certain to keep all supplies away from small children, pets and soiled items.

### Keep a clean house

- If your child crawls or plays on the floor, ask friends and family to take off their shoes when they come into your home.
- Keep pets away from your child and away from areas where your child sleeps, eats, plays and receives infusions or dressing changes.
- Clean your hand-washing sinks every day.
- Wash your child's bedding weekly or more often if soiled.
- Toys can carry germs so wash them weekly.
- If the IV tubing is likely to touch the ground (for example, a young child playing on the floor) protect the tubing connections by cleaning with alcohol and using Parafilm to cover each connection.

### Clean caps, additive ports and vials

1. Scrub all vials and additive ports on IV bags with an alcohol pad for 10 seconds. Use one pad for each vial or additive port. Let them dry before entering with syringe.
2. Scrub the cap of the line with an alcohol wipe for 10 seconds. Let it dry before connecting the IV bag or any syringes.
3. Change the cap every 3 days. To help you remember, make Monday, Wednesday, and Friday cap-change days.

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4. Caps need to be changed after each blood draw. Bring your home-care cap to the clinic so they can change it for you.

### Daily care and bathing tips

- Keep tubing away from the diaper area.
- Adjust the tubing so that your child cannot touch it or put it in their mouth.
- Keep the tubing out of the way so that your child cannot trip on it.
- Check your child's temperature daily and report any fever to your primary health-care provider.
- Bathe your child daily. Keep tubing out of the water.
- Prior to your child's bath or shower, place Parafilm on the cap and connection. Follow these steps:
  1. Scrub the area to be covered with an alcohol pad for 10 seconds.
  2. Let it dry before placing the Parafilm.
  3. Use Aqua Guard over the area where the line enters the body, and remove it after the bath or shower.
  4. Remove the Parafilm after the bath or shower, and throw it away.
  5. If the dressing becomes wet or loose it must be changed.

It's best to limit the number of people working on the line at home.

#### TO LEARN MORE

- Children's Home Care Services (425) 482-4000
- Toll free (800) 888-4420
- Your Child's Health-Care Provider

*Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Please call Marketing Communications at (206) 987-5205.*

*This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Children's Hospital. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's health care provider.*