

IV Hydration

Providing fluid for your child during home therapy

What does hydration mean?

Hydration is when fluids with electrolytes are given to help prevent your child from losing important body fluids. Hydration may be used if your child is having a hard time swallowing or is nauseous and vomiting during an illness, or after surgery. Hydration can also be used before some drug treatments.

Below is a list of electrolytes that have been added to your child's hydration bag to help correct electrolyte and fluid levels in your child's body.

	Electrolyte	Possible side effects
<input type="checkbox"/>	Potassium (chloride or other form)	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, irregular heartbeat, muscle weakness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Magnesium (sulfate or other form)	Nausea, vomiting, redness or flushing of the skin, sweating, trouble breathing, dizziness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sodium (acetate or other form)	Fever; very thirsty; swelling in the hands, ankles or feet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Phosphate (potassium or other form)	Diarrhea, weakness, unusual bruising or bleeding
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calcium (gluconate or other form)	Tingling, feeling hot, decreased blood pressure, abnormal heartbeat

How often do I give my child hydration therapy and how do I do it?

Your child's healthcare provider will give you the exact dose and tell you how often it should be given. This medicine is given through an intravenous catheter (IV) placed in one of your child's veins.

A nurse or other trained healthcare provider will tell you how to give this medicine.

To Learn More

- Home Care Services
425-482-4000;
toll-free 800-888-4429
- Ask your child's nurse
or doctor
- www.seattlechildrens.org

What side effects should I watch for?

If your child has pain, redness, swelling or a cold feeling at the catheter site, please contact Home Care Services.

If you notice sudden weight gain, puffiness and decreased urination, contact your child's healthcare provider.

If you have any further questions about your child's medicine, please call your Home Care Services pharmacist at 425-482-4000.

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers 206-987-2280 (TTY)

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

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

© 2007, 2009 Seattle Children's, Seattle, Washington. All rights reserved.

7/09
PE694