

# HOME IV THERAPY FOR MEDICATIONS AND FLUIDS



Children and youth who need IV medications for a long time no longer have to stay in hospital for their treatment. At home, parents and caregivers can take on some or all of the responsibility for the CVAD (Central Venous Access Device). How much responsibility parents and caregivers take on will depend on their level of comfort with this role. With teaching and support, parents and caregivers can learn to take care of the CVAD, and safely give medications through it. Our medical team will monitor your child or teen's progress during home IV therapy, through regular visits to an outpatient clinic.

## Care partners

As you learn to care for your child's CVAD and give medications, you'll need to have someone at home to support you. This care partner should be easily available to help you when needed. Your care partner will also need training to care for the CVAD, and to give medications through it. The Community Health Nurse will teach you how to operate the IV pump, and work through any problems that come up.



## How will we know how often to give the medications?

Your doctor will decide which medications your child or teen needs at home, and how often the medication is needed. For example, medications can be given just once a day, or more often. Medications needed more than once a day will have all the doses for a 24 hour period in 1 bag of IV solution. This means that your child or teen will be connected to the infusion pump for the full 24 hours.

## Who will prepare the IV medications?

The specialty compounding pharmacy will prepare the bag of IV solution with the medication. The pharmacy will also deliver it to your home or the clinic, along with all the other supplies you'll need. This will include a small, portable IV pump. Toddlers and preschoolers will have a backpack for their IV pump. School age children and teens will have a fanny pack for their pump. What if my child or teen is just getting fluids through the CVAD? Your doctor will decide how much IV fluid your child needs each day. If your child or teen only needs IV fluids for part of the day, the IV pump will be stopped and CVAD will be locked with Heparin.



Check the IV bag (with or without medication) to make sure the fluid is clear. You should not see any particles floating in the solution.

**Do not use the IV bag if the fluid is cloudy or if you see particles floating in it.**

## How do we store the IV bags?

The Specialty Compounding Pharmacy will bring a supply of IV bags to your home or the clinic every week. IV bags without medication can be stored at room temperature. IV bags with medication need to be stored in a refrigerator. Once IV solution with medication is removed from the fridge, you must use it up within 24 hours.

## Other equipment needed for the CVAD

### Heparin lock solution

Heparin stops blood from clotting in the catheter and blocking it when not in use. Heparin is available in either:

- a 10 mL multi-dose vial (100 units of heparin in each 1 mL). You'll need to draw this up using a syringe and needle
- a prefilled syringe which contains 100 units per mL



### 0.9% Sodium Chloride Pre-filled Syringes

These syringes are used:

- to flush the CVAD each day to make sure the line is running well
- after an infusion is finished, just before giving heparin to 'lock' the CVAD

## How do we store other supplies?

Keep all other supplies in a clean, dry place, away from children and pets.

## Have you registered for MyChart?

MyChart is a **FREE** secure, online patient portal that connects patients to parts of their CHEO electronic health record, anywhere, at any time.

To apply for MyChart access, visit [cheo.on.ca/mychart](http://cheo.on.ca/mychart) and fill out the MyChart access request form. Once your application has been approved, we'll send you an email with an activation code and instructions on how to

