

# Removing an Implanted Port Needle

Please refer to your  
“Getting Started with Infusion Therapy”  
booklet for additional information.

*This information is not intended to be a substitute  
for professional advice. Always do what your doctor,  
nurse or pharmacist recommends.*

## Overview

An implanted port, more commonly referred to as a port, is often placed in patients requiring long-term IV treatment. A port allows IV access with only one needle stick and may also be used to draw blood for lab work.

## Getting started

- Use a clean work area
- Clean your hands thoroughly using antibacterial soap and warm water  
*(if no soap and water is available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer)*
- Dry your hands with a clean towel

## 1 | Gather your supplies:

- Flush syringes
  - \_\_\_\_\_ mL saline
  - \_\_\_\_\_ mL of heparin \_\_\_\_\_ units/mL heparin
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gauze
- Non-sterile gloves
- Bandage *(if needed)*
- Sharps container *(if needed)* and/or trash container

## 2 | Prepare your flush syringes

- Prior to using syringe, push firmly on the thumb press with the tip cap still on, just until you feel the plunger move.
- Expel air and excess solution by twisting off tip cap and pushing plunger forward. Push out extra solution to the amount instructed by your nurse.
- Replace the syringe cap, being careful not to touch the tip of the syringe with your hand. If you touch it, you will need to start over with a clean syringe. Set aside syringe until you are ready to use it.
- Repeat for all flush syringes needed.

## 3 | Flush the port needle extension set with saline

Using your prepared saline syringe from step #2.

- Scrub the injection cap with an alcohol wipe for at least **15 SECONDS** and allow to air dry.
- Remove the protective cap from the saline flush syringe. **DO NOT** touch the syringe tip after removing the cap.
- Attach the saline flush syringe to the injection cap and open the clamp on the tubing, if indicated
- Flush tubing using a “push/pause” method. **DO NOT** attempt to flush if resistance is met; call your nurse or pharmacist.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ mL saline
- Remove and discard the saline flush syringe in a trash container.

## 4 | Flush the port needle extension set with heparin (unless port has a Groshong® tip, i.e. PowerPort®)

Using your prepared heparin syringe from step #2.

- A. Scrub the injection cap with an alcohol wipe for at least **15 SECONDS** and allow to air dry.
- B. Remove the protective cap from the heparin flush syringe. **DO NOT** touch the syringe tip after removing the cap.
- C. Attach the heparin flush syringe to the injection cap and open the clamp on the tubing, if indicated.
- D. Flush tubing using a “push/pause” method.  
**DO NOT** attempt to flush if resistance is met; call your nurse or pharmacist.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ mL of heparin \_\_\_\_\_ units/mL heparin
- E. Close the clamp on the tubing, if indicated.
- F. Remove and discard the heparin flush syringe in a trash container.

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## 5 | Remove the Port Needle

- A. Remove the dressing then hold the port steady with the fingers of one hand.  
*(if someone other than the patient is removing the dressing and needle, non-sterile gloves should be applied.)*
- B. With the other hand, pull the needle up until you hear a click indicating that the safety device has been activated.
- C. Remove and discard the needle into a sharps container.
- D. If bleeding occurs, apply pressure with sterile gauze until it stops and/or apply a bandage, if needed.

## Potential complications

It is important to promptly report any potential complications to your healthcare provider or nurse.

For more information on how to care for your port, please refer to the “**Implanted Port Care**” instructions provided.