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WITHDRAWING MEDICATION FROM A VIAL or AN AMPULE

Section: Nursing

Compliance: ACHC Infusion Pharmacy

INS STANDARDS: 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21

ACHC STANDARDS: DRX2-10D, DRX5-1D, DRX5-5E, DRX7-8I,
DRX7-21A

TJC STANDARDS: IC.02.01.01, MM.05.01.07, MM.05.01.09, MM.06.01.01, MM.06.01.03,
NPSG.01.01.01, PC.02.01.01, PC.02.01.03, PC.02.02.05, PC.02.03.01

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I. POLICY

To adhere to safe practices when preparing medications outside of the pharmacy. Medications should be drawn up in a clean and disinfected designated medication preparation area using aseptic technique to prevent contamination and transmission of microbial pathogens.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Supplies

1. Sterile Syringe
2. Sterile Needle
3. Sterile Filter Needle (Ampule)
4. Antiseptic swabs
5. Needleless transfer device
6. Medication (vial/ampule)
7. Diluent if using vial of lyophilized powder
8. Sterile syringe tip cap
9. Gloves

B. Verify patient using 2 identifiers.

C. Review prescriber's order. Verify the medication matches the medication label. Compare medication or solution to prescriber's order and medication label to ensure right patient, right dose, right route of administration, rate of administration, and total volume to infuse.

D. Prior to use, allow medication or solution reach room temperature according to medication label or manufacturer's instructions for use.

- E. Perform hand hygiene (refer to CarepathRx (2022). Hand Hygiene, NUR 018).
- F. Clean and disinfect work area using an appropriate disinfectant.
- G. Explain procedure and educate patient/caregiver:
1. Aseptic technique, standard precautions, and hand hygiene
 2. Medication preparation
 3. Safe storage of medication and supplies
 4. Discard a single-dose vial after single entry
 5. Disposal of medications, supplies and equipment
 6. The appropriate provider of treatment (the prescriber **OR** the pharmacist; **BOTH** the prescriber and the pharmacist) to contact during business hours, the availability of an answering system to receive calls during evenings, nights, weekends and holidays and the accessibility of a Pharmacist, Nurse, and Dietician 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Notify pharmacy by calling the number listed at the top of the medication label; (Refer to CarepathRx (2022). *BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES*, NUR 002; **II. ALGORITHM FOR NOTIFICATION OF PHARMACIST AND PROVIDER.**)
- H. Procedure:
1. Gather all equipment on clean, disinfected, aseptic field.
 2. Inspect equipment and supplies for product integrity and function before use; inspect solutions for particulates or discoloration; inspect packaging for damage; verify expiration date.
 3. Immediately prior to equipment assembly, hand hygiene is repeated, and non-sterile gloves are donned.
 4. Prepare medications or solutions for infusion according to medication label or package insert.
 5. Reconstitute vial of lyophilized powder according to manufacturer's instructions, if applicable.
 6. Withdrawing from a vial:
 - a) Remove protective cap from medication vial.
 - b) Scrub the rubber stopper of the vial with antiseptic swab for 30 seconds and allow to dry completely for at least 60 seconds.
 - c) Accessing the vial:
 - a. Needleless transfer device:
 - i. Insert needleless transfer device into the rubber stopper of vial
 - ii. Pull back the plunger of the syringe until the amount of air equals the amount of medication to be withdrawn. Scrub the needleless transfer device for 30 seconds and allow to dry for 60 seconds. Attach syringe to device.
 - iii. Slowly inject air into the vial.

- b. Syringe method:
 - i. Aseptically attach needle to syringe. Pull back the plunger of the syringe until the amount of air equals the amount of medication to be withdrawn. Insert syringe with needle attached into the vial.
 - ii. Slowly inject air into the vial.
 - d) Invert vial and remove medication.
 - e) Remove syringe or needleless transfer device from the vial.
 - f) Hold the syringe with the plunger side down and tap the side of the syringe to move air to the top of the liquid. Carefully expel air.
 - g) Recap the needle using the one-handed scoop technique.
 - h) Remove needle from syringe and discard needle in sharps container.
 - i) Attach sterile tip cap to syringe.
 - j) If medication is not immediately administered, label the syringe with patient's name, medication, dose, date, and time prepared and initials of person preparing the medication.
 - k) Discard sharps in a sharps container that is closeable, puncture resistant and leakproof.
 - l) Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.
7. Withdrawing from an ampule:
- a) Disinfect the neck of the ampule using an antiseptic swab for 30 seconds and allow to dry completely for at least 60 seconds.
 - b) Securely attach filter needle to sterile syringe using aseptic technique.
 - c) Tap the top of the ampule or swirl so that all the liquid drains from the neck.
 - d) Wrap an antiseptic swab around the neck of the ampule.
 - e) Point the ampule away from you and break the neck of the ampule.
 - f) Discard the antiseptic swab and neck of the ampule in the sharps container.
 - g) Insert syringe with filter needle into the ampule.
 - h) Do not inject air into the vial.
 - i) Withdraw contents of the vial into the syringe.
 - j) Recap the filter needle using the one-handed scoop technique.
 - k) Remove filter needle from syringe. Discard filter needle and ampule in the sharps container.
 - l) Expel air from the syringe.
 - m) Apply sterile tip cap to syringe.
 - n) If medication is not immediately administered, label the syringe with patient's name, medication, dose, date, and time prepared and initials of person preparing the medication.
 - o) Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

D. Document:

- 1. Receipt of education provided (verbal or written)
- 2. Education of patient or caregiver in self administration, if applicable

REFERENCES

Infusion Nurses Society. 8th Edition (2021). *Infusion Therapy Standards of Practice. Journal of Infusion Nursing, Volume 44.*

Infusion Nurses Society. 2nd Edition (2021). *Policies and Procedures for Infusion Therapy: Home Infusion.*

Infusion Nurses Society. (2020). *INS Point of Care Reference Cards.*

Accreditation Commission for Health Care (7/21/2022). *ACHC Standards*

The Joint Commission. (2022). *Joint Commission Resources E-dition*