

## **Standard Operating Procedure for inserting a gripper needle**

### **Introduction**

A portacath is a central venous catheter which is used to allow delivery of treatment needed for underlying conditions.

### **Purpose**

This standard operating procedure describes the steps followed when inserting a gripper needle into a portacath.

### **Equipment Needed:**

Trolley

Detergent wipes

Plastic apron

Sterile dressing pack

Sterile gloves x 2

Gripper needle of appropriate size ( should be documented in notes)

Chloaprep sponge (Chlorhexidine 2% in 70% alcohol solution sponge)

10ml luer lock syringes

Green needle

Red needle

Sodium chloride x 10mls

Heparin sodium (100 units/ml) x 5 mls

70% alcohol soaked swabs

Bioconector,

IV 3000/Mepitel dressing

Topical anaesthetic cream (if required)

### **Procedure**

1. Prepare the child and family and explain procedure and gain consent
2. A topical anaesthetic cream may be applied to the site if required and left for necessary time
3. Gather equipment required
4. Wash hands
5. Clean and dry trolley (work surface) with detergent wipes
6. Put on apron
7. Wash hands using soap and water for at least 1 minute
8. Open dressing pack onto clean trolley with minimal touching of the sterile field
9. Open sterile gloves, syringes, needles, wipes, bioconector, chloraprep sponge and appropriate dressing onto the sterile field without touching them and have the sodium chloride flush and heparin nearby
10. Wash hands using soap and water for at least 1 minute and dry
11. Put on sterile gloves
12. Attach green needle onto 10ml syringe
13. Use an alcohol wipe to clean ampule of sodium chloride without touching it with sterile gloves
14. Draw up 10ml of sodium chloride using the syringe and needle.
15. Discard needle and wipe

16. Attach the bio connector onto the non needle end of the gripper
17. Take the 10ml of saline and prime the gripper needle and clamp
18. Attach the red needle onto a 10ml syringe
19. Use an alcohol wipe to clean ampule of heparin without touching it with sterile gloves
20. Draw up the heparin solution using the syringe and needle
21. Discard needle and wipe
22. Cover up trolley with sterile field
23. Go to the child and ensure easy access to the port site
24. Remove the local anaesthetic cream if applicable
25. Locate the port and identify the septum
26. Remove gloves and decontaminate hands again
27. Put on new pair of sterile gloves
28. Hold the chloraprep sponge and pinch the clips to allow the enclosed ampoule to release the solution into the sponge applicator.
29. Gently press the applicator against the skin and apply the solution using firm repeated up and down, back and forth strokes over the port site for 30 seconds
30. Discard the chloraprep sponge
31. Allow the skin to dry naturally
32. Hold the gripper needle by the wings and remove the needle guard
33. Locate and firmly secure the port between your finger and thumb without touching the skin directly over the port
34. Inform the child that you are about to insert the needle
35. Insert the needle at a 90 degrees/ perpendicular angle through the septum until the needle hits the back plate
36. Using an alcohol wipe, clean the end of the device for 30 seconds and allow to dry naturally
37. Attach the syringe with saline onto the end of the device
38. Open the clamp
39. Gently pull back on the syringe and ensure there is flash back of blood from the line
40. Use positive pressure to flush the line and close the clamp
41. Attach the syringe with heparin onto the end of the device
42. Flush the line with the heparin and reclamp under positive pressure
43. Apply dressing ensuring the site is well covered and the end of the line clamp can be easily accessed
44. Discard of all equipment
45. Document in notes and care bundle that line has been accessed