

## **VITAL CARE of Houston**

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### **Elastomeric/Central Venous Catheter Infusion**

#### **Your prescription:**

#### **Things You Need to Know:**

1. Always wash your hands before administering home infusion therapy with warm water and antibacterial soap for 15 seconds. Also, use a paper towel to dry your hands and turn off the water faucet. Using an alcohol based gel or foam is also an acceptable way to clean your hands if your hands are not visibly soiled. Follow the instructions on the manufacturer's label.
2. Always clean your needleless connector with alcohol wipe before connecting syringes or IV tubing using a frictional scrubbing motion for 15 seconds.
3. Your venous catheter must be flushed after each use and sometimes between uses as instructed using the "SASH" technique. If you have more than one catheter line, you will need to alternate lines with each scheduled infusion.
4. Your central venous catheter dressing and needleless connectors will need to be changed once a week by your home health nurse or physician's office. Do not attempt to remove/change dressing unless instructed to do so by your nurse or pharmacist.
5. Your medication doses will be delivered on a regular basis and will need to be stored in your refrigerator in a dedicated area. You must remove your next dose of medication from the refrigerator 1-4 hours before you need to infuse it to let it warm to room temperature. Do not leave the device out of the refrigerator for longer than 6 hours.
6. Avoid getting the catheter or dressing wet during bath or shower. Also, avoid activities that may cause you to sweat.

7. Avoid movement of the catheter at any time. If you notice that the catheter has moved or the line has been pulled out slightly, notify your nurse or pharmacist.
  
8. Signs or symptoms to report to your nurse or pharmacist:
  - a. Pain or tenderness around you catheter or during infusion
  - b. Puffiness or swelling around your PICC or anywhere on your chest, neck, or arm
  - c. Redness, drainage, or bleeding around your PICC site.
  - d. Fever
  - e. Clogging inside your catheter or a suddenly "sluggish" infusion
  - f. Leaking of medications from your PICC.
  - g. Ringing in your ears or any pain in your ears or neck during your medication
  - h. Heart Palpitations
  - i. Lightheadedness, dizziness, or fainting

**Additional Info:**