



Practice Briefs

Should our dialysis facility be using a common saline bag to draw up our flushes?

No

Multiple guidelines suggest this practice places patients at risk. Here is a summary of the applicable guidelines:

ISMP Guidelines for Safe Preparation of Compounded Sterile Preparations

<https://www.ismp.org/tools/guidelines/IVSummit/IVCGuidelines.pdf>

COMPOUNDING PERFORMED OUTSIDE OF THE PHARMACY ADMIXTURE SERVICE

The following are at-risk behaviors that must be avoided:

Preparing IV flush syringes from liter bags of IV solutions

ISMP Safe Practice Guidelines for Adult IV Push Medications

<https://www.ismp.org/Tools/guidelines/IVSummitPush/IVPushMedGuidelines.pdf>

Recommendation 3.8, page 11.

NEVER use IV solutions in containers intended for infusion, including mini bags, as common source containers (multiple-dose product) to prepare IV flush syringes or to dilute or reconstitute medications for one or more patients in clinical care areas.

Discussion: IV infusion bags are labeled by the manufacturer as single dose containers, and as such, are intended for administration as a single dose for use promptly after the container is opened, and any unused portions discarded. APIC standards also suggest never to use IV solution containers (e.g., bags, bottles) to obtain flush solutions, diluents, or for any other purpose for more than one patient. Examples in the literature can be found in which the use of common-source infusion bags has resulted in the administration of contaminated injection solution. Respondents to an ISMP survey erroneously suggested this practice was safe because they discarded the solution after 24 hours. However, limiting use to 24 hours does not prevent disease transmission if the bag becomes contaminated. CDC Safe Injection Practices (IV.H.8) also indicate that practitioners should not use bags or bottles of IV solution as a common-source of supply for multiple patients. If the solution becomes contaminated, it can impact disease transmission for a large group of patients

www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/IP07_standardPrecaution.html

APIC POSITION PAPER: SAFE INJECTION, INFUSION, AND MEDICATION VIAL PRACTICES IN HEALTH CARE (2016)

ICAP is a cooperative effort of UNMC/Nebraska Medicine and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. "ICAP Practice Briefs" are intended to provide evidence-based guidance on infection prevention issues; check linked references directly for the most current and more detailed information.

https://www.apic.org/Resource/TinyMceFileManager/Position_Statements/2016APICSIPPositionPaper.pdf **FLUSHING**

- Use single-use containers for flush solutions, whenever possible.
- If a multidose vial must be used, use it for only one patient and then discard it. Use a new, unused sterile needle and new, unused sterile syringe for each entry into the vial.

IV SOLUTIONS

- Use an IV solution (e.g., bag, bottle) for only one patient, and then discard.
- Never use a container of IV solution (e.g., bag, bottle) to obtain flush solutions for more than one patient.

2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/isolation-guidelines.pdf>

Do not use bags or bottles of intravenous solution as a common source of supply for multiple patients

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Hospital Infection Control Worksheet

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-15-12-Attachment-1.pdf>

2.B.9 Bags of IV solution are used for only one patient (and not as a source of flush solution for multiple patients).

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