How to Add Heparin to Dialysis Solution

Why:
Heparin (Heparin Sodium) is a medicine that prevents clots (anticoagulant). It may be used to prevent fibrin formation associated with peritoneal dialysis.

What you need:
- Ultrabag or Cycler Bag
- mask
- Heparin 1,000 units/ml
- 3 ml syringe
- 2 alcohol swabs
- 2 needles
- sharps container (red sharps box or plastic laundry soap bottle with lid)

Dose of heparin to use if fibrin is in the drain bag:

If you use an ultrabag:
If the ultrabag is 1500ml use 0.75 ml heparin
If the ultrabag is 2000ml use 1 ml heparin
If the ultrabag is 2500ml use 1.25 ml heparin

If you use a cycler bag:
If the cycler bag is 3,000ml use 1.5 ml heparin
If the cycler bag is 5,000ml use 2.5 ml heparin
If the cycler bag is 6,000ml use 3 ml heparin

Dose ordered by: ______________________________ MD
Date: _______________
What to do:

1. Warm the ultrabag or prepare the cycler.

2. Put on a mask. Wash your hands with antibacterial soap and water for 1 minute, and dry them well. Then scrub with hand sanitizer for 30 seconds.

3. Remove the cap from the bottle of heparin. Clean the top of the bottle with an alcohol for 30 seconds. Let it dry.

4. Open one sterile needle in the package. Open the sterile syringe in the package. Be careful not to touch the ends, and put the needle on the syringe.

5. Hold the syringe in your hand.

6. Pull the plunger on the syringe down to the right dose of medicine. Carefully, pull the cap off the needle of the syringe, without touching the needle.

7. Put the needle into the bottle top. Push the air in.

8. Keep the needle in the bottle. Tilt the bottle and syringe upside down. Pull out the right amount of medicine.

9. Turn bottle right side up. Remove the needle and syringe from the medicine bottle and put the bottle down. Carefully put the cap back on the needle.

10. Open a new sterile needle in package. Twist the cap and needle off the syringe. Throw out the needle in the sharps container. Put the new needle on the syringe. Put syringe on top of the dialysis bag.
11. If you use more than 1 bag of solution for dialysis, you will need more than one syringe filled with medicine. Repeat steps 4 to 10 for each additional bag.

12. Clean the medicine port on the dialysis solution bag(s) with an alcohol swab. Scrub hard for 30 seconds. Use a new alcohol swab for each bag.

13. Pull the cap off the syringe with medicine without touching the needle.

14. Without touching the end of the medicine port, put the needle into the medicine port and push the medicine into the bag. Pull back on the plunger to fill the syringe with fluid from the bag. Push that fluid back into the bag. This will make sure all the medicine gets into the bag.

15. Remove the needle from the medicine port. Put the needle and syringe into the sharps container.

16. Gently turn the bag side to side and upside down. This will mix the medicine into all the fluid in the bag.

17. If you use more than 1 bag of solution for dialysis, repeat steps 12 to 16 for each additional bag.

18. After the medicine is added to the bag(s):
   - For ultrabag: Do a manual exchange as instructed.
   - For cycler: Continue the cycler set up.

19. If there is any medicine left over, write the date you opened it on the bottle. The medicine is good for 30 days at room temperature. When fibrin is in the drain bag, follow these instructions again.

Now that you’ve read this:
- ☐ Tell your nurse or doctor when you would add heparin to the bag. (Check when done.)
- ☐ Show your nurse or doctor how you will draw up the medicine and put it in the bag. (Check when done.)
If you have any questions or concerns,  
☐ call your child’s doctor or  ☐ call _______________________

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