

Using Needleless Connectors

Introduction

The “connector” on the end of your venous catheter is called a “needleless connector device”. Some nurses might refer to it as a “cap”. Its design allows you to connect your intravenous infusion to your catheter without using any needles.

The needleless connector device should be maintained and replaced as taught by your homecare nurse so that the device and the catheter remain free of infection.

Use the instructions below, and contact your home care nurse or pharmacist if you have any questions.

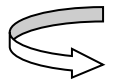


Cleaning the Needleless Connector before Use

Your nurse will show you how to properly clean your needleless connector with an alcohol wipe before connecting the intravenous (IV) tubing. A frictional scrub motion (using a good amount of pressure to produce friction) is recommended.

Changing Your Connector

1. Wash your hands as taught.
2. Open the package with your new connector. If the device has a protective cover on the tip do not remove the cover.
3. Open the end of an alcohol wipe.
4. Clamp your catheter if taught to do so by your nurse.
5. Remove the old needleless connector by turning it counter-clockwise. Discard it as instructed.
6. Holding the catheter with one hand, pick up an alcohol wipe.
7. Clean the threads of the catheter hub with the alcohol wipe.
8. Pick up the new needleless connector. Remove the protective cover (if applicable), and place the needleless connector on the catheter hub by turning the needleless connector clockwise.
9. When the new needleless connector is securely in place, open the clamp.



Notes and Instructions

1. Change your needleless connector every seven (7) days, or as instructed by your nurse or pharmacist.
2. Change the needleless connector if: a) you see blood in the connector, b) if the end becomes contaminated, or c) the rubber or plastic becomes worn, or you notice pieces breaking.
3. Apply disinfection cap if applicable.