





Checklist: Priming IV Tubing




Disclaimer: Always review and follow your hospital policy regarding this specific skill.

Safety considerations:

- Primary IV tubing can be macro-drip or micro-drip tubing. The drop factor of the IV tubing is required to complete the IV drip rate calculation for a gravity infusion.
- Remember to invert all access ports and backcheck valve.

Steps	Additional Information
1. Perform hand hygiene.	This step prevents the transmission of microorganisms.
2. Check order to verify solution, rate, and frequency.	This ensures IV solution is correct and helps prevent medication error.
3. Gather supplies.	You will need IV solution, primary IV tubing, time label, change label, alcohol swab, and basin or sink.  Sterile IV solution
4. Remove IV solution from outer packaging and gently squeeze.	Tear the perforated corner of the outer packaging, check colour, clarity, and expiration date.

	 <p>Remove IV solution from packaging</p>
<p>5. Remove primary IV tubing from outer packaging.</p>	 <p>IV tubing</p>
<p>6. Move the roller clamp about 3 cm below the drip chamber and close the clamp.</p>	 <p>Move roller clamp</p>
<p>7. Remove the protective cover on the IV solution port and keep sterile. Remove the protective cover on the IV tubing spike.</p>	<p>Be careful and do not contaminate the spike.</p>

	 <p>Remove protective cover from spike on IV tubing</p>
<p>8. Without contaminating the solution port, carefully insert the IV tubing spike into the port, gently pushing and twisting.</p>	 <p>Insert IV spike into sterile solution using sterile technique</p>
<p>9. Hang bag on IV pole.</p>	<p>The IV bag should be approximately one metre above the IV insertion site.</p>
<p>10. Fill the drip chamber one-third to one-half full by gently squeezing the chamber. Remove protective cover on the end of the tubing and keep sterile.</p>	<p>Filling the drip chamber prevents air from entering the IV tubing.</p>  <p>Fill drip chamber</p>
<p>11. With distal end of tubing over a basin or sink, slowly open roller clamp to prime the IV tubing.</p>	<p>Inverting and tapping the access ports and backcheck valve helps</p>

Invert backcheck valve and ports as the fluid passes through the tubing. Tap gently to remove air and to fill with fluid.

displace and remove air when priming the IV tubing.



Invert IV tubing when priming with solution

12. Once IV tubing is primed, check the entire length of tubing to ensure no air bubbles are present.

This step confirms that air is out of the IV tubing.

13. Close roller clamp. Cover end with sterile dead-ender or sterile protective cover. Hang tubing on IV pole to prevent from touching the ground.

Keep the distal end sterile prior to connecting IV to patient.

14. Label tubing and IV bag with date, time, and initials.

Label IV solution bag as per agency policy. Do not write directly on the IV bag.



Labelled IV bag

15. Perform hand hygiene.

This reduces the transmission of microorganisms.



Hand hygiene with Alcohol -
Based -Hand -Rub (ABHR)

Data source: Fulcher & Frazier, 2007; Perry et al., 2014.