

Subcutaneous Line Insertion

To go along with video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlgCito1daA>



1. Gather all supplies
 - a. Subcutaneous line (blue or yellow butterfly), alcohol wipes, blue bung, and transparent dressing
2. Choose the appropriate site on your loved one, check that there is no redness/swelling/breakdown/irritation.
3. Clean hands
4. Open up all packaging, to allow easy access
5. Clean the skin surrounding the area you have chosen to place the subcutaneous line using a alcohol swab. Let the skin air dry (approx. 30 seconds)
6. Remove the subcutaneous from the packaging and grip it in your dominant hand by the flaps. You want the bubbled/grip side facing down towards the skin.
7. Remove the cap covering the sharp tip of the subcutaneous line and check that the hole at the end of the tip (bevel) is facing up (see image)
8. Pinch the skin lightly with your non dominant hand, don't grip a large amount you just want the fatty tissue not the muscle underneath.
9. Angle the needle at 45 degrees and insert in 1 steady motion
10. Lie the flaps flat against the skin and hold in place firmly, with other hand grip the clear white tube at the end and pull until it is completely detached to remove the sharp introducer. NOTE your butterfly does not have a button to push.
11. Continue to hold the line in place and remove the backing of the dressing and place it over the of the yellow plastic flaps of the subcutaneous line and skin surrounding the insertion site, making sure the window/see through part is over the insertion point for monitoring.
12. Change the end port and attach the blue bung you have in your pack
13. Write the date on the dressing



Administering Medication

1. Gather all supplies – medication, saline flush, alcohol wipe
2. Wash your hands thoroughly
3. Check site to make sure line is sitting correctly and there is no redness, swelling, pain, pus, hardening or heat at the site. If there is please contact your nurse.
4. Grip the blue bung with non dominant hand and clean with alcohol swab firmly
5. Attach medication syringe to blue bung by twisting clockwise with pressure. Gently press plunger to give medication. This may sting for a few seconds.
6. Detach medication and attach saline flush syringe. Ensure you set the saline syringe cap somewhere clean and so the piece, which attaches back to the syringe is not touching anything.
(Note if this is a new saline syringe pull the plunger back a little to break the seal then push out air –it's now ready to use)
7. The numbers on the side of the saline are in mls. Push the plunger about a quarter of the way between numbers to give 0.5mls as a flush
8. Detach saline and recap if you managed to keep cap clean.

Removing Subcutaneous Line

1. Gather your supplies – gauze and plaster
2. Wash your hands
3. Remove dressing gently starting from the edges and working in. You can use some saline to help if it's stuck down too firmly being careful not to damage the skin. If this is difficult speak to your nurse about adhesive remover.
4. Once dressing is detached from skin, grip flaps as with insertion and slide out catheter.
5. Press the site gently with gauze, you can have the patient hold this while you dispose of the line.
6. Apply plaster.
7. If there are any signs of infection such as redness, swelling, pain, pus, hardening or heat at the site please contact your nurse.