

De Anza College
Department of Nursing
I.V. Therapy Guidelines

The following are regulations regarding I.V. therapy for students who have completed Pharmacology III.

Students may do the following I.V. Therapy procedures, if approved by the facility, under the direct supervision of instructor or Registered Nurse:*

- Superimpose I.V. fluids
- Change peripheral tubing/dressings
- Add medications to primary I.V. fluids
- Prepare and administer I.V. Piggyback medications via peripheral lines, running central lines, and peripheral saline locks
- Discontinue peripheral I.V. lines
- Flush peripheral saline locks
- Change peripheral I.V. lines to saline locks
- Monitor blood transfusions and TPN infusions (e.g., monitor patient's vital signs, blood glucose, s/s adverse reactions, etc.)
- Insert peripheral I.V. catheters

Students may do the following I.V. Therapy procedures, if approved by the facility, **ONLY** under the direct supervision of instructor or Registered Nurse:

- Discontinue central I.V. lines
- Change central line tubing/dressings
- Flush central lines (heparin or saline)
- Change central I.V. lines to heparin or saline locks
- Prepare and administer I.V. Piggyback medications via central line heparin or saline locks
- Administer I.V. push medications
- Initiate and regulate flow on blood products

Students may not do the following I.V. therapy procedures under any circumstances:

- Initiate and regulate flow on TPN
- Irrigate I.V. lines
- Administer experimental medications
- Administer chemotherapy
- Perform arterial punctures
- Administer epidural medications or manipulate/discontinue epidural lines

*Students may do these procedures independently only with instructor, staff nurse, or preceptor approval.

IV Push Policy

If agency permits, students in Quarters 4 and above will be allowed to give IV push medications in the clinical setting only after:

- 1) receiving theory and clinical instruction and practice in quarter 3 Pharmacology, and
- 2) demonstrating the procedure proficiently in Quarter 4 utilizing De Anza criteria (and facility policy).

Students performing medication administration via IV Push must be directly observed by their clinical instructor or the RN assigned to the patient during the entire procedure.

Supporting Documents:

- DAC Intravenous Therapy Policy
- Skills criteria Sheets
 - IV Push Medication (Running)
 - IV Push Medication (Lock)
 - Central Line Heparin Lock Flush

Blood Administration Policy

Students will ONLY be allowed to participate in the blood administration process by permission of their instructor or preceptor (for Quarter Six students). Students *must* refer to the guidelines outlined on course greensheets as they may differ from quarter to quarter, or between facilities or units utilized. **It is the student's responsibility to clarify any questions they may have in this regard before administering blood products.**