

Home Hydration after Chemotherapy

Intravenous (IV) fluids for hydration after chemotherapy can be given at home. When IV fluids are given at home, it is important for you to know what to do and who to call for medical help.

When Receiving IV Fluids at Home:

1. Periodically check the pump to be sure the IV fluids are infusing.
2. If your child is receiving hydration overnight, check the access site and/or tube connections before bedtime and when your child wakes up. If your child is receiving hydration during the day, check the access site and/or tube connections every 2 hours.
3. If your child has a port-a-cath:
 - a. The needle should be in place
 - b. The dressing should be dry
 - c. There should not be redness, leakage or swelling around the access site
4. If your child has a central line or PICC line:
 - a. Be sure the tubing is connected
 - b. Check to make sure there is no leakage
5. If the IV tubing becomes disconnected:
 - Clamp the IV tubing
 - Turn off the pump

Who should I call for help?

Call your infusion company if the pump alarms and you are not able to fix the problem.

During Clinic hours call the Jimmy Fund Clinic (617-632-3270). During Evenings (after 5:00pm), Weekends, Holidays call the Pediatric Oncology Fellow on call (617-632-3352) if your child has any of the following problems:

- Vomiting more than twice in 8 hours
- Not urinating at least every 4-6 hours
- IV line comes apart
- Implanted port site looks puffy or the needle comes out

Contact Us

For patient care assistance, please call the following phone numbers:

- Jimmy Fund Clinic (617) 632-3270
Business Hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Page Operator (617) 632-3352
Off hours: weekdays after 5 p.m., holidays, and weekends
Page pediatric hematology/oncology fellow on call
- Life Threatening Emergencies dial 911