

How to give an injection into a cannula

A cannula is a tube inserted under the skin by a doctor or a nurse to carry medication into a person's body. Following these instructions will help you give injections safely into a person's cannula.

Safety Warning

- You need to have been shown the correct injecting procedure by your nurse before proceeding, as there are different systems that can be used.
- Medications should already have been prepared (drawn up into a syringe) by your nurse until they are required to be injected.
- Do not assist with giving the injection if you feel unsure how to proceed on your own. Contact your nurse instead.

Before you start

- 1 If you notice any redness, tenderness, swelling or leakage at the injection site, do not proceed and contact your nurse as soon as possible or after hours service.**
- 2 Wash your hands with soap and water and dry well.
- 3 Check the cannula and the tubing to ensure it isn't damaged or kinked in any way.
- 4 Check the syringes that have been prepared for you by your nurse or health professional. These should be labelled with the name of the medication and the date prepared. Check it is not out of date.
- 5 Make sure you are confident that you have the correct syringes.
- 6 Check the fluid in the syringe looking for:
 - Colour changes, cloudiness, or anything floating in the liquid.
 - If any of these are present, do not use.

Further information

Contact your nurse or health professional if you need further assistance.
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Wash your hands with soap and water and dry well.



Wipe the injection site (cannula port) with an alcohol wipe.



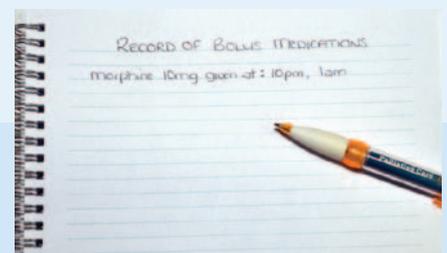
Insert the syringe tip into the appropriate injection port (as shown and advised by your nurse or doctor) and push plunger until the barrel is empty.



Rinse (flush) the cannula and tubing with 0.5ml sterile normal saline.



Carefully place the syringe into the sharps container.



Record the medication(s) given.

Giving the injection

- 1 If the syringes have been in the fridge, allow them to come to room temperature to reduce any stinging. (You can roll the syringe barrel gently between the palms of your hands to warm it up.)
- 2 Take the prepared syringes in a clean container, and a sharps container to the person.
- 3 Wipe the injection site (cannula port) with an alcohol wipe and wait till dry.
- 4 Insert the syringe tip into the appropriate injection port as shown and advised by your nurse or doctor. (For 'Luer lock' syringes, thread into the correct port and twist to the right.)
- 5 Slowly push the plunger of the syringe until the barrel is empty.
- 6 If it is hard to inject medications or if the medications leak out onto the skin when you inject:
 - i Do not continue.
 - ii Contact your nurse as this means the cannula is no longer working.
 - iii Leave the cannula in place for the nurse to remove.
- 7 Remove the syringe and dispose of it into the sharps container. (If using the Luer lock syringe, twist to the left.)
- 8 Rinse (flush) the cannula and tubing with 0.5ml sterile normal saline with a fresh syringe.
- 9 Carefully place the syringe into the sharps container.
- 10 Repeat the process for each injection, flushing with saline solution each time.

Please note

- It is normal for a small lump to appear at the insertion site immediately after the injection has been given. The small lump will disappear as the medication is absorbed into the bloodstream. If it does not, contact your nurse.

After you have given the injection

- 1 Record the medication(s) given, amount, date and time.
- 2 Store the medications safely. They should be secured in a container in a cool place away from children and from the view of others. Prepared labelled syringes should be stored in an airtight container in the fridge, or as directed by the nurse.
- 3 Store the sharps container out of reach safely and securely.
- 4 Check later that the medication has worked by asking the patient how they feel. If pain is obvious through facial grimacing, frowning, tensing of muscles and agitation, more injections (as prescribed) may be required.

Please note: some pain medications take up to an hour to have full effect.
- 5 If pain persists, contact your nurse or doctor as soon as possible.
- 6 Unused medications should be returned to your pharmacist when no longer required.

Acknowledgements: photos and text adapted from Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative info sheet, March 2011

Loddon Mallee Regional Palliative Care Consortium

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