# HOW TO HANG AN IV PIGGYBACK



Primary Fluids (usually 500 mL or more)

Primary Tubing

Secondary Tubing



Secondary Fluid/Medication



IV Pole



Medication Pump



Alcohol Pad

- Extension hook
- Secondary piggyback
- Piggyback line
- Primary line
- Clamp
- Piggyback or primary port
- To client
- Medication pump

### **CLINICAL TIP:**

The primary bag is the maintenance fluids or flush, that is the one attached to the longer (primary) IV line.

### **Procedure**

\*Instructions are specific to an IV pump and re-priming for amount of fluid and length of time for the intermittent infusion. Practices may vary.

- Scan new medications and use "Five Rights" to check medication and orders.
- Check that secondary medication and primary medication are compatible.
- 3. Wash hands and apply clean gloves.
- Ensure the client's IV is properly functioning by inspecting the IV site and flushing it with saline (not needed if the client has a ,main IV' infusing).
- 5. Close the roller clamp of the secondary tubing. \*\*Important!! Or medication will rapidly flow out of the secondary tubing\*\*
- 6. Spike the secondary fluid bag with the 2° tubing and prime tubing with secondary bag fluid.
- 7. Hang the primary fluid bag below secondary.
- Scrub the injection port of the primary tubing this is above the medication pump.
- 9. Connect the secondary tubing to the primary tubing.
- 10. Program the pump, double check that the rate is correct for the secondary medication.
- Open the roller clamp of the secondary medication.
- 12. Ensure drops are flowing from the secondary medication before leaving the client.

## **Back Priming**

\*Please note: Back priming is not a consistent standard practice to use one secondary tubing for multiple secondary infusions of different types. Depending on facility or institution, this practice might not be allowed.

Used when multiple IV medications need to be administered – keeping the same secondary tubing = less infection risk!

- Scan new medication.
- Check that new medication and primary fluids are compatible.
- Remove the old secondary medication bag and spike the new bag.
- Lower down the secondary bag below the primary fluid bag.
- Release the roller clamp on the secondary tubing to allow primary solution to fill secondary tubing, re-clamp the tubing when the primary solution ½ fills the secondary drip chamber.

**NOTES** 



