

What to think about before starting this therapy?

Like many medical treatments, there are risks to intravenous therapy.

Before deciding if this therapy is right for you, your family practitioner (family doctor or nurse practitioner) explores with you and your family what matters most to you, including what you prefer or wish when your health changes or you become ill.

Questions to consider:

- What is the impact on my quality of life? Does this therapy fit with my wishes and preferences about how I want changes in my health responded to?
- Will this therapy hurt?
- What are possible problems? Is there any chance my health can get worse with this therapy?
- Have other people with my problem been helped by this therapy?
- Are there reasons why I should not have this therapy?

Questions or concerns?

Please speak with the 'nurse in charge' in your care home

My questions

www.fraserhealth.ca

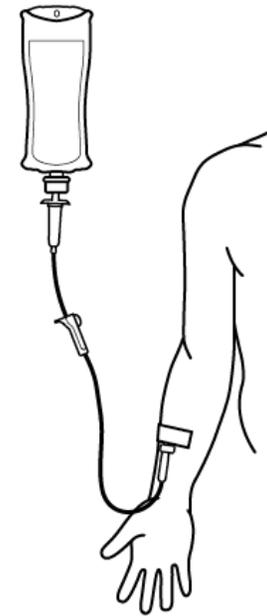
This information does not replace the advice given to you by your health care provider.

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To order: patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca

Intravenous Therapy

Long-Term Care



Information for Residents and Families



What is intravenous therapy?

Intravenous (IV) means 'into the vein'. Intravenous therapy is when we insert a small flexible tube (called an 'IV catheter') through the skin into a vein. This allows us to give fluid or medicine right into the blood stream. Veins carry blood toward the heart.

Offering intravenous therapy in our care homes allows you to stay in familiar surroundings. When you stay in your home, the care you receive is from care providers who know you, your preferences, and your routines.

Why intravenous therapy?

Some medicines cannot be absorbed any other way.

This therapy allows a person to get fluids and/or medicines when not able to swallow.

It is good for giving fluids back into the body. It is also a good way to treat some infections.

Types of therapy

We offer 2 types of intravenous therapy.

- **Peripheral intravenous** uses a small vein usually in the lower arm. Used for short-term therapy.
- **Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)** uses a larger vein in your upper arm and a long, thin IV catheter. Used for longer-term therapy.

We also offer an alternative to intravenous therapy.

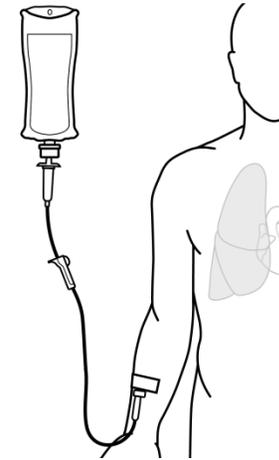
- **Subcutaneous therapy** uses the space under the skin rather than a vein. Fluid absorbs very slowly. Used for giving fluids to prevent or treat dehydration.

Certain therapies can only be done in the hospital.

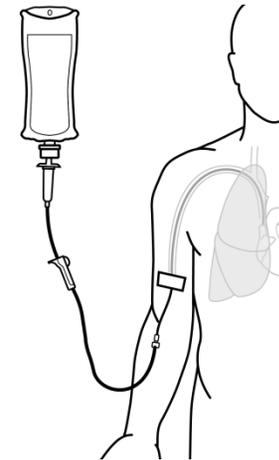
We are not able to offer:

- blood products like a blood transfusion
- extra nutrition through intravenous

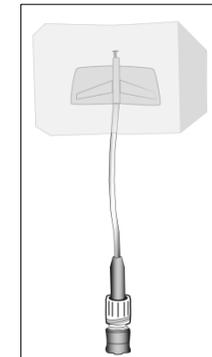
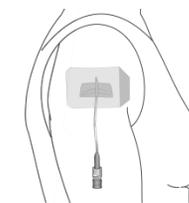
Peripheral Intravenous



Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter



Subcutaneous



Subcutaneous Close-up