

Glossary

- Additives** Medications ordered by the physician to be put into an IV solution.
- Administer**..... To give a solution or medication either by mouth, by injection or through a vein (IV).
- Administration Set** IV tubing which connects the solution container to the IV catheter. This set includes a spike (used to enter the solution container), the tubing, and an adapter (used to connect the tubing to the needle, cannula or catheter). There is a roller clamp or pinch clamp on the tubing to adjust the rate of flow of the solution and/or to close and open the tubing.
- Antiseptic Swab** A pad soaked in antiseptic solution, used to kill germs. Antiseptic solutions include: alcohol, povidone-iodine, and chlorhexidine.
- Amino Acids** Protein for the body, usually part of a parenteral nutrition (PN) formula.
- Antibiotics**..... Medications that fight infection by killing or stopping the growth of specific germs and bacteria.
- Anti-infectives**..... Medications that fight infection by killing or stopping growth of specific germs, such as bacteria.
- Ampule**..... A small glass container used to hold sterile solutions and medications.
- Aseptic** Refers to procedures used to prevent infection. Aseptic and sterile are words that mean free of germs.
- Bacteria** A small organism which may cause infection.
- Cannula** A plastic, needleless injection device.

- Carbohydrates Starches and sugars which are important nutrients for the body.
- Catheter A piece of soft tubing placed through the skin and into a vein to give medications and solutions directly into your blood stream.
- Central Catheter IV catheter which is threaded through a vein to a point close to the heart.
- Contaminate To put bacteria on a sterile area by contact with objects which are not sterile (such as ungloved hands).
- Cyclic Giving a solution over a prescribed period of time everyday (i.e., over 12 hours every day).
- Dehydrated Excess loss of fluid from the body.
- Dextrose A sugar which is part of carbohydrates. An important nutrient for the body.
- Dressing A covering used to protect an area from contamination or infection.
- Electrolytes Necessary parts of body fluid and cells such as potassium and sodium.
- Exit Site The place where the catheter comes out of the skin.
- Expiration Date The month, day and year found on the container in which a solution or medication expires. The product should not be used past this date.
- Fats Lipids. An important nutrient for the body.
- Fatty Acids Refers to fats.
- Filter A device, sometimes part of an IV tubing, which screens out particles from solution.
- Filter Needle A needle that has a filter inside it, used to trap particles from solution when using glass ampules.
- Flush To clear out the solution remaining in the catheter or tubing.

- Gastrointestinal Tract..... Consists of the mouth, throat, esophagus, stomach and intestines; where food travels to be absorbed by the body.
- Gauze Dressing..... A dressing that covers the exit site of a catheter. This dressing does not keep moisture away from the exit site as a transparent dressing would.
- Heparin..... A medication used to prevent blood from clotting and blocking the catheter.
- Heparinization..... Putting a heparin solution into the catheter with a syringe to prevent blood from clotting and blocking the catheter.
- Heparin Lock Describes an IV catheter with an injection cap on it that is filled with heparin to keep the catheter open until the next infusion.
- Hyperglycemia..... Increased amount of sugar in the blood.
- Hypoglycemia..... Decreased amount of sugar in the blood.
- Infection Growth of microorganisms, such as bacteria, in the body that can lead to disease.
- Infuse..... To put a solution into a vein through a catheter.
- Infusion Device..... A device that controls the speed (rate) of a solution as it enters the vein through the catheter.
- Injection Cap..... A small cap with a rubber top, screwed into the end of the catheter to close it off until a cannula is put through it.
- Insertion Site The place where the catheter enters the skin.
- Intake..... Fluid or food which is taken into the body.
- Intravenous (IV)..... Meaning “into the vein”, this term refers to giving medications through a catheter that has been placed in a vein.
- IV Catheter..... A flexible plastic tube which is placed in a vein to deliver fluid and medication directly into the bloodstream.

Lipids	Solution of fats which can be given through the veins for extra calories. Lipids appear as a white, milky solution.
Milliliter (ml)	A unit of measure for liquids, same as a “cc”.
Minerals	Necessary nutrients for the body such as iron and zinc.
Needleless System	A system used to enter the catheter in the vein that does not use any sharp metal needles. This system stops the risk of accidental injuries caused by needles.
Nutrients.....	Food or parts of food which are necessary part of body nourishment such as carbohydrates and proteins.
Occlusion	A blockage that prevents solutions from flowing through a catheter.
Output	Waste which comes from the body, in the form of urine, feces and/or vomit.
Parenteral	Administration of fluids, nutrients or medication through a vein.
Parenteral Nutrition.....	Also called PN. A nutritional solution that is infused directly through a large vein.
Peripheral	The extremities – arms or legs. Peripheral IVs are placed in veins in the arms or hands.
Prime	To fill the tubing with solution, pushing the air out.
Proteins	Nutrients which are important for growth and repair of the body.
Rate	The speed the solution flows through the catheter, usually measured in cc’s or ml’s per hour, or drops per minute.
Saline Flush	A salt and water solution used to clear the catheter, also called “0.9% Sodium Chloride”.
Sepsis	Infection in the bloodstream.

- Side Effect..... An undesired result of taking a medication or therapy.
- Sterile Completely free from bacteria. Most supplies packed in sealed containers are sterile.
- Syringe A plastic device used to measure, hold, and administer medications into a catheter.
- Systemic This refers to the entire body, the entire “system”.
- Trace Elements..... Metals and other elements which are present in the body in small amounts but are necessary for the body, such as copper and fluorine.
- Transparent Dressing A clear dressing which repels water and is used to protect the exit site or insertion site of the IV catheter.
- Tubing A plastic device used to administer intravenous solutions. Also called an “administration set”.
- Vial..... A small container with a rubber top that holds sterile solutions such as heparin and saline.
- Vitamins Complex substances found in food which are important body nutrients such as vitamin A and vitamin C.
- Volume The amount of solution or medication that is to be given through the catheter.