Ethanol Lock Instructions

Note to providers: *For silicone catheters ONLY. Not for use in PICC or powerlines. Volume of ethanol to be instilled is dependent upon catheter volume. Volume for instillation should NEVER exceed 1 mL. Please refer to policy Pharm - 071.0 for additional details.*

What is an ethanol lock?

Ethanol is a solution (mixture of liquids) that can be placed in your child's central line catheter to prevent or treat a line infection. It is used to keep the intravenous line clean and kill bacteria that might get in the catheter.

When should I use an ethanol lock on my child's central line?

Your child's line should be treated with ethanol after Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) finishes, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday or as ordered by your doctor. The instillation time will be determined by your doctor but is typically 1 to 2 hours. Do not instill (push in) more ethanol than ordered.

Troubleshooting

Call your medical team:

- If your child has a cool feeling in the back of their throat or a 'foggy or fuzzy' feeling in their head
- If unable to withdraw (pull back) the ethanol

What supplies do I need?

Supplies Needed:

- ☐ Alcohol prep pads (5)
- ☐ Normal saline syringe (2)
- ☐ Empty syringe (1)
- ☐ Ethanol syringe (1)
- ☐ Heparin lock syringe (1)

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Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Wash your hands for 30 seconds and dry them with a paper towel. Clean your work area. Gather your supplies.
2. Place all of the supplies on the clean work area.
3. Unclamp the line. Use hand sanitizer.
4. Clean the catheter cap for 20 seconds with an alcohol prep pad then let it dry for 10 seconds.
5. Connect the normal saline syringe to the cap and flush the line with 10 mL of normal saline.
6. Disconnect (remove) the normal saline syringe from the catheter
7. Clean the catheter cap for 20 seconds with a new alcohol prep pad, let it dry for 10 seconds.
8. Connect the ethanol syringe to the cap and push in ___ mL (the amount ordered by your doctor).
9. Disconnect (remove) the ethanol solution syringe from the catheter cap.
10. Allow the ethanol solution to remain in the line for ___ hours (as directed by your doctor).
11. After the ethanol solution has been in the catheter for ___ hours, clean the catheter cap for 20 seconds with a new alcohol prep pad then let it dry for 10 seconds.
12. Connect an empty syringe to the catheter cap and pull out ___ mL of the ethanol solution, or amount you pushed in. It is normal to see some blood flow back into the syringe. Remove the syringe.
13. Put the syringe containing the ethanol solution in a Sharps container.
14. Clean the catheter cap for 20 seconds with a new alcohol prep pad, let it dry for 10 seconds.
15. Connect the normal saline syringe to the catheter cap and flush the line with 10 mL of normal saline.
16. Disconnect (remove) the normal saline syringe.
17. Clean the cap with a new alcohol prep pad for 20 seconds then let it dry for 10 seconds.
18. Connect the heparin syringe to the catheter cap and flush the line with 3 mL of the heparin solution
19. Disconnect (remove) the heparin syringe.
20. Clamp the line.

Picture Step-by-Step Instructions:

					
Clean	**Flush**	**Clean**	**Instill (push in) ethanol**	**Clean**	**Remove ethanol**
• Unclamp the line. • Clean the catheter cap for 20 seconds with an alcohol prep pad then, let it dry for 10 seconds.	• Connect the normal saline syringe to the cap and flush the line with 10 mL of normal saline. • Disconnect (remove) the normal saline syringe from the catheter cap.	• Clean the catheter cap for 20 seconds with a new alcohol prep pad then let it dry for 10 seconds.	• Connect the ethanol syringe to the cap and push in __ mL (amount ordered). • Disconnect (remove) the empty ethanol solution syringe from the catheter • Allow the ethanol solution to remain in the line for __ hours (no more than 2 hours)	• After the ethanol solution has been in the catheter for 2 hours, clean the catheter cap for 20 seconds with a new alcohol prep pad then let it dry for 10 seconds.	• Connect an empty syringe to the catheter cap and pull out ___ mL of the ethanol solution (remove the amount you pushed in) • Remove the syringe.

				
Place syringe in a Sharps container	**Clean**	**Flush**	**Clean**	**Heparin**
• Put the syringe containing the ethanol solution in a Sharps container.	• Clean the catheter cap for 20 seconds with a new alcohol prep pad then let it dry for 10 seconds.	• Connect the normal saline syringe to the catheter cap and flush the line with 10 mL of normal saline. • Disconnect the normal saline syringe.	• Clean the catheter cap for 20 seconds with a new alcohol prep pad and let it dry for 10 seconds	• Connect the heparin syringe to the catheter cap and flush the line with 3 mL of the heparin solution • Disconnect (remove) the heparin syringe. • Clamp the line.