

HOW TO START AN IV

10 Steps on how to start a peripheral IV using a butterfly:

1. Gather supplies; remove any items from the refrigerator and allow the sterile diluent to come to room temperature if applicable.



2. Wash hands or use alcohol gel.

3. The important step in the process is to find a good vein to access the IV. The large vein located in the bend of the elbow is most often used, but you can also use hand, and wrist if necessary.

a.



4. Apply a tourniquet just a few inches above the site, securing it for easy removal after inserting the butterfly. (To help visualize the access site, you may tap the skin of the IV access site and squeeze the fist a few times.)

b.



5. Make sure that the vein is secure and wipe the area with an alcohol pad (30 seconds rub with friction and allow to dry for 30 seconds)

c.



6. Choose a butterfly size.

d.



7. Carefully remove the cap on the butterfly, and tightly pull the skin around the IV site. Keep the butterfly as parallel to the skin as possible and insert the needle. A hint of blood in the butterfly tubing will indicate that the vein was hit directly, and he or she should continue to advance the butterfly.

e.



8. Remove the tourniquet.

f.



9. Look for leaking and swelling at the IV site. If this occurs, the process was unsuccessful.

g.



10. Now ready for administration of medication. (Make sure to follow guidelines to properly dispose of your supplies.)

h.



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