

SECTION 8B: PUMPS & DRUG ADMINISTRATION	POLICY: 8B.10
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PURPOSE:

- To promote correct administration of medication by patients and caregivers in the home care setting.

POLICY:

- A Registered Nurse will educate/teach patients and caregivers in accordance with physician orders, pharmacy instructions/materials and Agency policy.
- During each SOC / Admission visit and as applicable thereafter, a Registered Nurse shall ensure the patient and/or caregiver is provided information and education (verbal & demonstration) regarding applicable in-home practices and procedures necessary for ordered therapy.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Patients may be taught to independently perform medication administration via infusion or injection.
- Most medication infused via CVC or PIV are done so using the SASH or SAS method unless otherwise stated in the physician order.

PROCEDURE:

For all teaching visits, the Agency nurse shall:

- Assess the client's learning readiness and ability to pay attention and perform the required tasks.
- Explain the purpose of the medication and instruct how to administer medications, i.e., process time, frequency, route of administration, dose.
- Instruct the client regarding the potential side effects of the medication/procedure, including delayed hypersensitivity and anaphylaxis, which can potentially occur after the patient has received several doses of the medication.
- Explain that the medication should be taken as prescribed until the MD/provider directs otherwise.

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- Allow the patient/caregiver to discuss any unresolved questions or concerns about the medication.
- Proceed to teach the patient/caregiver the techniques for administration.
- Observe and document when the client has successfully verbalized and/or demonstrated independence with medication administration and related therapy education elements.

SASH/SAS Method of Administration

This method is the standard for [flushing access devices](#) (i.e. CVCs, Port-a-Caths, and PIVs) and administering medication. It stands for:

- **S**aline (flush)
- **A**dminister medication
- **S**aline (flush)
- **H**eparin (flush/lock)

In some cases, SAS may be appropriate when Heparin is not needed. Be sure the patient can verbalize understanding and demonstrate the method.

DOCUMENTATION:

Regarding teaching, each clinical note should include:

- The patient/caregiver's progress toward the goal of independence
- The narrative note should specify what steps/goals the client has accomplished and what additional teaching / education elements they still need to achieve.
- If any concerns exist regarding their ability to perform any tasks and/or become independent, it should be documented in the note and reported to the Agency.