	<b>P02.7 - MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION BY SUBCUTANEOUS CATHETER</b>	
	Version date: 2025-05-15	Effective Date: 2025-06-03 (07:00)
PCP <sup>1</sup> / ICP / ACP		All ages

### INDICATIONS

- Administering a medication by an established subcutaneous (SC) catheter

### WARNINGS

- When administering more than one medication, some may not be compatible and will require injection at different sites.

### EQUIPMENT

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) for contact & droplet precautions
- Nonsterile gloves
- Disposable blue soaker pad
- Sterile drape (or towel)
- 70% isopropyl alcohol pad (4)
- Prescribed medication(s)
- Single-use syringe & blunt fill needle (1 per medication)
- Sterile saline flush syringe

### PROCEDURE

1. A paramedic with the primary (PCP) work scope requires additional employer-based training to perform this procedure (A06.2).
2. Explain the procedure to the patient / proxy and obtain verbal consent if time allows.
3. Prepare a clear and clean area. Gather all equipment.
4. Perform hand hygiene and don PPE with nonsterile gloves.
5. Place the soaker pad under the patient.
6. Establish a sterile field with the drape in the center of the clear area. Drop all equipment it onto the sterile field, taking care to not touch anything with your non-sterile gloves.

7. The catheter should be covered by a device-specific dressing (figure 1) or a transparent semi-permeable membrane (TSM) dressing (figure 2). Both should allow you to be able to visually inspect the catheter insertion site as well as the surrounding skin.

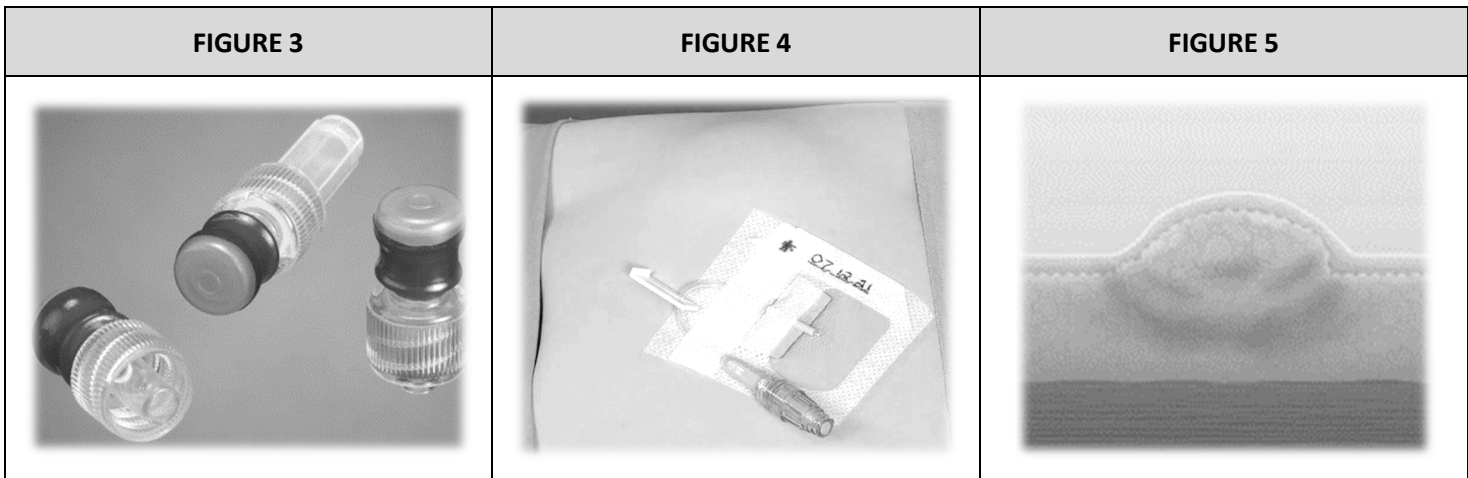
Determine when the catheter was inserted or last replaced. With proper care, a catheter can be used for up to 7 days. There should be no signs of infection or inflammation, and the surrounding skin should not be broken or recently irradiated. If necessary, replace the catheter at a different site as per P02.5.

8. If the catheter will be used repeatedly, consider replacing the supplied injection port (figure 3) with a Luer-Lok™ needle-free connector (figure 4).
9. Obtain the prescribed medication (check the expiry date). If the medication is supplied in powdered form, reconstitute as per the manufacturer's directions. Perform the Six Rights of Safe Medication Administration (H04).
10. Remove the cover from the medication vial and disinfect the rubber stopper with an alcohol swab for 15 seconds. Repeat with a second swab for 15 seconds., and allow to air dry.
11. Remove the cover from the blunt fill needle and draw the medication up into the empty syringe. Replace the needle cover and remove the needle .
12. Remove the end cap from the catheter and clean the injection port or needle-free connector with an alcohol pad for 15 seconds. Repeat with a second pad for 15 seconds, and allow to air dry.
13. Attach the syringe. Inject the medication slowly to minimize discomfort.



NOTE: The maximum volume of solution that should be injected at one time is 2.5 ml. If the volume to be administered exceeds this, inject the first 2.5 ml. Wait 15 minutes, then visualize and palpate the site. If there is no "bump", inject up to another 2.5 ml. This can be repeated until the entire volume been delivered.

The presence of a "bump" indicates that the medication has not yet been absorbed (figure 5). Either wait longer or administer further volume at another site.

14. Once all the medication has been injected and absorbed (no bump), flush the line with 2.5 ml of sterile saline to ensure all of the drug is deposited in the subcutaneous space.
15. Clean the injection port or needle-free connector with a third alcohol pad for 15 seconds. Repeat with the fourth pad, and replace the end cap.
16. Remove the soaker pad from under the patient.
17. Remove your PPE and perform hand hygiene.
18. Discard all used supplies into the biohazard container.
19. Document the procedure in the patient care record (PCR).



LINKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A06.2 - EMS Work Scope (Medical Functions &amp; Procedures)</li><li>• H04 - Safe Medication Administration</li><li>• P02.5 - Subcutaneous Catheter Insertion</li></ul>

APPROVED BY	
	
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**VERSION CHANGES (refer to X09 for change tracking)**

- New