Infusion nursing at home

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Intravenous infusion means intravenous application of exceeding amounts of drugs or solutions by injection or catheter. It is used if the patient does not have the possibility to be treated orally. When the drug is applied in form of infusion it is given to the patient by a certain period (short or long) and speed. In the methods of intravenous treatment, the drug can be injected directly into the vein or by Bolus technology putting the drugs in 500-1000 ml serums.

Nowadays especially the patients having chronic diseases want to be treated at home. To meet the patients’ complex health requirements, curing at home services by maintaining infusion treatments is done.

The areas where infusion treatment usually applied are:
- Diabetes type diseases
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Multiple sclerosis
- Immune deficiency
- Hemophilia
- Crohn disease
- Congestive heart failure
- Gastrointestinal diseases
- Infectious diseases that need heavy antibiotic curing
- Cancer

The role of the home-care nurse

The role of the home-care nurse is being a coordinator and support person for the patients. She is responsible for briefing the essential staff for providing high technological services. Nurses at home must have the goods and be well-equipped to take care of catheters and maintenance of treatment. Period of home caring visits must be organized according to patient needs. Other than home visits, home caring services must go on 24 hours for emergency conditions.

These days of becoming widespread of home caring services in our country, a certification programme must be prepared to standardise the applications, post-graduate programs must be opened to raise experts of at home caring services, guides must be prepared. Infusion Nurses Society (INS) established at 1973, Infusion Nursing Certification Corporation (INCC) established at 1983, are the foundations that serve internationally in this area of work.

STANDARDS FOR INFUSION THERAPY

1. Education and training
   1.1 Staff education
   1.2 Patient and carer education
2. Infusion control and safety compliance
   2.1 Infection control
   2.2 Hand-washing
   2.3 Personal protective equipment (PPE)
   2.4 Reconstitution
   2.5 Compatibility
   2.6 Expiry dates
   2.7 Safe use and disposal of sharps and hazardous material
3. Cleaning and sterilising reusable equipment
4. Infusion equipment
   4.1 Add-on devices
   4.2 Splints
   4.3 Filters
   4.4 Flow control devices
   4.5 Blood/fluid warmers
   4.6 Injection and access caps/ports
   4.7 Tourniquets
   4.8 Administration sets
5. Site selection and placement
   5.1 Site selection
   5.2 Device selection
   5.3 Hair removal
   5.4 Local anaesthesia
   5.5 Insertion site preparation
   5.6 Device placement
   5.7 Device stabilisation
   5.8 Dressings
6. Site care and maintenance
   6.1 Site care
   6.2 Maintaining patency
   6.3 Catheter clearance
   6.4 Vascular access device removal
   6.5 Catheter malposition
   6.6 Catheter exchange
   6.7 Catheter repair
   7. Specific devices
   7.1 Intravascular catheters
   7.2 Arteriovenous fistula, shunts and haemodialysis catheters
   7.3 Catheter exit sites
   7.4 Intravenous access
   7.5 Subcutaneous injection/infusion
   7.6 The Ommaya reservoir (an intraventricular access device)

8. Infusion therapies
   8.1 Medication and solution administration
   8.2 Intravenous chemotherapy administration
   8.3 Oncology and chemotherapy
   8.4 Patient-controlled analgesia
   8.5 Parenteral nutrition
   8.6 Intravenous conscious sedation
   8.7 Intravenous conscious sedation
   8.8 Epidural analgesia infusion
   8.9 Intravenous immunoglobulin therapy
   8.10 Apheresis procedures (donor/therapeutic)
   8.11 Blood sampling

9. Infusion-related complications
   9.1 Phlebitis
   9.2 Infiltration
   9.3 Extravasation
   9.4 Haematoma
   9.6 Haemorrhage
   9.6 Pneumothorax and haemorrhage
   9.7 Cardiac tamponade
   9.8 Air embolism
   9.9 Speedshock/fluid overload
   9.10 Infusion-related bloodstream infections
   9.11 Thrombosis

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