

Antibiotic Administration Set Line Flushing

Reference Number: RDF1575-23

Date of Response: 29/06/23

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

Dear Freedom of Information team,

I am submitting this Freedom of Information request, aiming to understand how each NHS organisation uses and disposes of antimicrobials when given as an intravenous (IV) intermittent infusion.

Please provide an overall answer to the questions below factoring in practice in the following clinical areas of the hospital:

- *Critical Care*
- *Emergency Department/Wards*
- *Medical Wards*
- *Surgical Wards*
- *Outpatients, etc.*

Please exclude the following areas—where evidence shows that correct practice already takes place—from your response:

- *Oncology*
- *Haematology*
- *Paediatrics*
- *Neonatal Units*

Please also exclude responses related to flushing of the needlefree extension or vascular access device as these questions specifically relate to the residual volume of antibiotic in the administration set line (infusion pump set and/or gravity set).

Answer: Please see the Trust response below.

Please provide a response to the questions below in accordance with further detail outlined in the Freedom of Information Request letter titled '*Antibiotic Administration Set Line Flushing*'

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – Eastern & Northern Services				
Question Number	Question	Please answer using the drop down boxes where provided or using free text where no drop box is provided.	Additional Comments	Guidance notes for answering question
1a	With regards to administration sets (pump and gravity) used to infuse IV antibiotics, does your institution have a policy to flush the administration set to give the full dose of antibiotics in accordance with guidelines?	No		Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
1b	If yes to question 1a, is your organisation fully compliant with your policy to flush the administration set to give the full dose of antibiotics in accordance with guidelines?		Not applicable	Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
1c	If yes to question 1a, do you follow method 1 or 2 as outlined by the National Infusion and Vascular Access Society (NIVAS) guidance on line flushing 2021?		Not applicable	https://nivas.org.uk/contentimages/main/NIVAS-Infusion-flushing-guidelines-2021-Version-3-2-FINAL.pdf
2a	With regards to administration sets (pump and gravity) used to infuse IV antibiotics, if you do have a policy in place to flush the administration set, have you audited compliance with this policy?		Not applicable	Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology

2b	Can you share the audit results (if yes, please can you provide a copy)?		Not applicable	Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
3a	What education have you put in place to ensure healthcare professionals in your organisation understand the guidance on flushing administration sets that are used for IV antibiotic infusions?	As it's not our practice to flush administration set after IV antibiotics, there is no training	If it was to become practice, then this would be taught on the IV & CVC course	Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
3b	What education have you put in place to ensure healthcare professionals in your organisation understand the patient risks involved with failing to flush the residual volume of IV antibiotics in the administration sets?	Please see question 3a	Not applicable	Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
3c	What education have you put in place to ensure healthcare professionals in your organisation understand the possible effects of not flushing the IV administration set containing IV antibiotics on antimicrobial resistance?	Please see question 3a	Not applicable	Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
4	With regards to administration sets (pump and gravity) used to infuse IV antibiotics, which of the following (if any) are included in your policy with regards to disposing of the administration set and residual volume of either the prescribed antibiotic or flushing solution?			
	4a Complete administration set (including drip chamber with sharp) is disposed of into the yellow bag.	No		Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
	4b Complete administration set (including drip chamber with sharp) is disposed of into the orange bag.	No		Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology

4c Complete administration set (including drip chamber with sharp) is disposed of into the sharps bin.	Northern Services – Yes Eastern Services - No		Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
4d Drip chamber/sharp are detached from the administration set line and the drip chamber/sharp disposed of in the sharps bin and the rest of the administration set line disposed of in the yellow bag.	No		Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
4e Drip chamber/sharp is detached from the administration set line and the drip chamber/sharp disposed of in the sharps bin and the rest of the administration set line disposed of in the orange bag	No		Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology
4f Other (please state)	Eastern Services - The IV bag & IV set are disposed of in a blue lined box, specifically for these items	No sharp as the IV bag is still attached to IV set & chamber with sharp	Please exclude the following areas from your response; paediatrics, oncology and haematology