

Changing IV Bags

Female1: Hi, Renee, we've just received an order to a change the solution for this patient. What do we need to do?

Female2: Okay, so even if you gave me that order verbally, I would still need to go back and check the chart myself, because ultimately I'm responsible.

F1: Yeah.

F2: So I've done that. I've gone to my clean service room. I have my solution. I've come to my patient. I've done my two patient identifiers and then notified them-- informed them about what their prescriber has advised.

F1: So Renee, I saw you've taken a smaller bag than the bag that's hanging. Why did you do that?

F2: That's a really good question. So IV bags can only hang for 24 hours, so this IV I'm going to run it 15 mls/ hour. I could hang a litre bag but that would mean that I'm going to waste a whole bunch. It wouldn't be the end of the world if I decided to hang a litre.

F1: If that was the only one on the shelf.

F2: So I've informed my patient. They know what I'm doing. I'm just going to shut my pump off. And then, of course, I've done all my checks to make sure I have the right solution. I've looked at the expiry date. I've made sure it's not leaking. That I have a cap on my end. And again, it doesn't leak out because there is that plastic dam in there. I've flipped this bag upside down because I don't want this volume leaking all over my feet.

F1: Because if you just pulled it out you would get solution leaking out, right?

F2: Exactly. I'm going to maintain sterility of that spike. I don't have to do any priming, because I already have fluid in my drip chamber. And my tubing's already primed. And now I just need to make some adjustments.

F1: So looking at the controller, I enter the rate and the new volume, right.

F2: Exactly, yeah.

F1: Okay, and then you would chart that, including how much you've wasted?

F2: Again, depending on the patient's situation. If they're on strict fluid balance you would definitely want to chart the volume that you've wasted.

F1: Okay.