SUBJECT/TITLE: SwabCap™/SwabCap™ Flush

PURPOSE: To describe appropriate use of the Swabcap™ and Swabcap™ flush.

DEFINITION:
SwabCap™ is a disinfection cap that covers the needleless connector and protects it from touch and airborne contamination after it's been applied. SwabCap™ contains 70% Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) as a disinfectant solution and when applied to the needleless connector, between line accesses, the IPA bathes the connector's top and threads.

This information is specific to:
- SwabCap™ (PS 55034)
- SwabCap™ flush (PS# 3ml- 55031, 5 ml 55032, 10 ml, 55034)

POLICY:
1. SwabCaps™ should be in place on all needleless access device when not in use. This ensures a “closed system”.
   A. SwabCaps™ should be added to all luer access points of IV tubing sets as soon as the catheter is placed (e.g. secondary set connection, extension tubing used in CWS syringe pumps, stopcocks with needless connectors attached).
   B. SwabCaps™ are left in place BETWEEN uses to protect the connector from touch and airborne contamination.
   C. SwabCaps™ are single use. After an access site is used, a new SwabCap™ should be twisted securely onto the site.
2. SwabCap™ cannot be used as an end-cap on stopcocks without a needless access device between the stopcock and the SwabCap™.
3. SwabCaps™ can be added to dialysis catheters if a needleless access device that has a luer-lock connection and a swabable surface is on the dialysis catheter.
4. SwabCap™ should be applied with a simple push and twist.
5. The SwabCap™ is only effective when left in place for a minimum of 5 minutes, or longer.

PROCEDURE

1. **IV Set-up and Maintenance:**
   A. Perform hand hygiene.  Don gloves.
   B. Set up the IV tubing appropriately without contaminating tubing ends.
   C. Add only the amount of stopcocks needed
   D. Add needleless access device to stopcocks
   E. Add SwabCap™ on all needleless access ports, allowing needleless access device disinfection prior to patient arrival.

2. **Access:**
   A. Perform hand hygiene. Don gloves.
   B. Carefully open the SwabCap™ package and place the SwabCap™ on the end of the needleless access device.
   C. After a minimum of 5 minutes the needleless access device is disinfected and ready for use.  The SwabCap™ may remain on the needleless access device for up to 96 hours.
   D. Prior to medication administration, remove the SwabCap™ from the needleless access device. *This cap will be discarded.* **Be careful not to touch or rub any point of the needleless access device prior to attaching the medication syringe/tubing.** IF touched, the staff member will need to scrub the hub for 15 seconds with alcohol.
   E. Administer Medication/Fluid

3. **Flushing post medication delivered by syringe pump:**
   A. Perform hand hygiene. Don gloves.
   B. After the medication syringe has infused, carefully remove the medication syringe and attach a flush syringe.  **Be careful not to touch or rub any point of the needleless access device prior to attaching the medication syringe/tubing.**
   C. Administer the flush either IV push or using the syringe pump as appropriate for the medication be administered
      1) If the pump is used to deliver the flush, the smartpump will default to the monojet setting.
   D. When the flush is complete, carefully remove the flush, if applicable squirt excess flush from the syringe, and then attach a new SwabCap™ from the end of the Swab Flush.
4. **Secondary Medication and the SwabCap:**
   A. When the medication is complete, if the secondary IV tubing is going to be removed:
      1) Perform hand hygiene. Don gloves
      2) Carefully remove the secondary IV tubing and attach a white male connector to the end (unless secondary tubing is being discarded after use).
      3) Attach a new SwabCap™ to the end of needleless access device

**PRECAUTIONS, CONSIDERATIONS, AND OBSERVATIONS:**

1. SwabCap™ is a disinfectant cap that can be used on ANY luer access port, such as a needleless access device on a venous access device.
2. Note that there are luer access devices on drainage tubes, SwabCap™ is to ONLY be used on venous access.
3. SwabCap™ Flush is an efficient means to flush and maintain a clean port by also having the swab cap accessible after 5 minutes, or longer, of access time.
4. SwabCaps™ cannot be used on any open stop cock that does not have a needleless access device on the end of the stop cock.
5. **Once a SwabCap™ has been removed, always replace it with a new one.**
6. The staff member will still need to scrub the hub with alcohol for 15 seconds if:
   A. The needleless access device is touched or dropped between meds/flushes
   B. If you find a needleless access device un-covered and need to give a med

**REFERENCES:**


ADDENDUM:

1. SwabCap™ application:
   A. Hold the needleless access device at its base and carefully apply the SwabCap™
      ![Image](image1)
   B. Twist the SwabCap™ onto the end of the needleless access device
      ![Image](image2)
   C. Orange cap gives a visual reminder that the cab is being disinfected and ready for use after at least 5 minutes of contact time. Swabcaps™ can be in place a maximum of 96 hours.
      ![Image](image3)