

## Heparin Flushing of Cannulas

1. Cannulate the access using standard rope ladder or buttonhole protocol.
2. Draw up 1000 units of heparin sodium using a 10-mL syringe and needle.
3. Dilute the heparin in the syringe by drawing up sodium chloride 0.9% to a total volume of 10 mL (concentration now 100 units/mL).
4. Flush each cannula with 5 mL (500 units) of the diluted heparin/sodium chloride solution.
5. Flush cannulas before initiating dialysis using the usual procedure.
6. Reduce the postdialysis heparin bolus by 1 mL (1000 units) to account for the amount used to flush the cannulas.

Note: If patients typically use enoxaparin instead of heparin, advise them to withdraw the heparinized saline from the cannulas (instead of flushing) before using them for HD. Patients should flush the cannulas with sodium chloride 0.9% to ensure proper position before initiating dialysis. Enoxaparin should be administered, as usual.

Protocol adapted with permission from Metro South and Ipswich Nephrology and Transplant Services (MINTS), Queensland, Australia.