

What is an IV?

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An IV (intravenous) is a small **flexible straw** that enters into the **vein**. The straw has a small poke on the inside to help guide it into the right spot. Once the poke and straw are in the right spot, the poke part comes out, the straw stays in and is taped down.

Why it's important to have an IV?

It is important to have an **IV** so that fluids, medicine or blood products can enter the body through the blood stream. We can also use an IV to take blood from your veins for lab tests.

Your job during an IV.

Your job during an IV is to keep the body as still as a statue, so that the IV can go in as quickly and safely as possible. Once your IV is in place you will still be able to play, enjoy art projects or other activities.

What happens when you have an IV?

Steps:

- Remove **numbing cream** and test site for effectiveness
- Heat pack** or **warm, wet towel** may be used to make vein more visible.
- Stretchy band** over shirt sleeve to protect skin.
- Cold, wet **cleaner** to make sure there are no germs where the poke is placed.
- Quick **poke** of the straw under the skin, into a vein.
- Window bandage** to make sure the IV stays in place.
- Saline flush** to make sure the IV is working properly. This can feel cool going into the vein.
- Sometimes, a **soft board and securing device** is used to keep the straw from bending.

Things that can help when having your IV placed.

Helpful Hints:

- Ask about available numbing and pain control options. This may include application of Emla cream (1-hour prior) or by requesting LMX cream (30 minutes prior), the use of **Buzzy Bee** or **Sweet-Ease** (if less than 18 months.)
- IV Education with a Child Life Specialist.
- Comfort positioning**
- Blocking the Sight with an **I-Spy Board**, iPad or book.
- Distraction** such as pop tubes, music, bubble timers or singing.
- Breathing Reminders and/or Counting; "Breathe in on 1,2 and out on 3."
- Using a pediatric friendly treatment room, if one exists.
- Children take cues from their caregivers, so it is helpful to remain calm.



IV Placement Steps

		
Remove numbing cream & confirm numbness	Warm pack	Stretchy band (Tourniquet)
		
Cold, wet cleaner	Straw poke (IV catheter)	Window bandage
		
Cool flush of water (Saline)	Tape	Soft board beneath to secure

Body Systems

