

# IV Push Reminders

November 2017

There is a critical shortage of Small Volume Parenteral (SVP) solutions as a result of the recent hurricane's impact on pharmaceutical production in Puerto Rico. In order to conserve some of the SVP solutions, many different medications have been added to the IVP list. The IV Med Guidelines will also be updated to reflect this change. When administering IVP meds, please remember the following:

- Prepare all medications in a designated medication prep area on your unit
- Dilute medications according to the [IV Medication Guidelines](#) (what it can be diluted with and how much)
- Label all medication syringes with the medication name and dosage (Medication Administration, HAM [policy](#))
- Review the medication's potential side effects before administration
- Be aware of the recommended IV push rate for the drug you are administering – refer to attached document and [IV Medication Guidelines](#) **Caution:** many side effects such as infiltration or speed shock with symptoms such as a flushed face, headache, tight feeling in the chest, and irregular pulse, can be caused by administering a medication too fast.
- Flush the IV line, after medication administration, at a rate equal to the administration rate of the IV push medication  
(ex. rate of push 3-5 minutes = 3-5 minutes for flush)

## **Please complete the following:**

- Review the attached document: Small Volume Parenteral (SVP) Shortage – November 2017
- Review the attached document: [IV Push Medications](#) Protocol/Procedure
- Sign your name on the unit sign-off list by 11/30 indicating you have received this information and aware of these changes

## References:

[ISMP Safe Practice Guidelines for Adult IV Push Medications](#)  
[UConn John Dempsey Hospital IV Push Medication Policy](#)