

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
GUIDELINES FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

**SUBJECT: 1100.05  
MISCELLANEOUS:  
SALINE LOCKS**

**ORIGINAL ISSUE: 5/08  
LATEST REVISION: 5/08**

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**Overview**

Saline locks may be inserted and utilized for medication administration or may be converted for use with IV fluids.

**Procedure**

1. Flush J-loop with saline.
2. Following standard precautions and using appropriate technique, insert catheter into vein.
3. Attach saline filled J-loop to catheter.
4. Inject 3 - 5 ml of normal saline or until blood is not visible in tubing; observe for signs of infiltration.
5. Secure tubing and catheter; apply dressing.
6. Medication administration
  - Flush with 1 -2 ml of normal saline
  - Administer medication
  - Flush with 2 -3 ml of normal saline
7. If signs of infiltration are present, remove catheter, apply direct pressure until bleeding stops, then apply dressing; re-attempt insertion.
8. If medication is given, document pertinent administration information, (including name of drug, dosage, route, time, and patient's response).

**Complications**

Infiltration  
Infection/Phlebitis  
Blood clot in catheter