

## Why Do I Need More Than One IV?

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Giving fluids or medicine through a vein is called intravenous (IV) therapy. It is common to have one or more IV's while you are in the hospital. An IV may be used to:

- Add fluids and electrolytes to the body, especially if you are not able to eat or drink
- Give medicines that cannot be given by mouth, or medicines that need to work quickly
- Give blood or blood products
- Take blood for lab tests
- Give liquid nutrition

While you are in the hospital, you will have at least one IV. This may include a peripheral IV, central venous catheter, PICC line or an implanted port. The reasons for having more than one IV may include:

- Some medicines cannot be given together, so a separate IV is needed to give each medicine
- Blood products must be given separately
- Some medicines may need to be given quickly
- Several kinds of IV's may be used at one time for certain treatments
- An IV may need to be changed or removed if it is not working properly

If you have questions or want more information, talk to your nurse.

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**This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.**