

Cambridge English for Nursing

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

UNIT 7

IV therapy

a Click on the link below and discuss the following questions in pairs.

What do you think this equipment is used for?

Have you used this type of equipment before?

http://www.baxter.com/products/medication_management/iv_tubing_and_access_devices/index.html

b Gina, from Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S), is giving a presentation to the nurses on the ward. Listen to the presentation and answer the following questions.

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- 1 What is the subject of the talk?
- 2 When do the injuries occur?
- 3 What safety measures are already in place?
- 4 How does this new technology work?
- 5 What problem does this technology address?

c Match the words (1–8) and (a–h) to make medical terms.

1 needle-stick	a access port
2 blunt	b cannula
3 split septum	c bung
4 blood-borne	d blade
5 rubber	e viruses
6 butterfly	f injuries
7 blood	g plastic cannula
8 scalpel	h clots

d Listen again and check your answers.

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Gina: Good morning, everyone. I'm Gina Goldstein from Workplace Health and Safety. I'm going to talk to you today about needle-stick injuries and how to decrease their incidence. I'm sure you're all aware that out of all healthcare workers, nurses are at the most risk of needle-stick injuries. They occur most frequently some time after using a sharp object like a syringe, butterfly cannula or scalpel blade and before the disposal of the sharp object. Now, I'm sure you're aware of the safety procedures which are already in place, such as the use of sharps disposal containers. Other procedures, like using an instrument to hold a sharp object instead of your hands and giving a verbal command when passing a sharp object will be familiar to those of you who work in Theatres.

I'd like to go through the needleless IV access system with you now, as this is one of the main strategies we're using to reduce needle-stick injuries and therefore reduce the transmission of blood-borne viruses. The Interlink system, which you can see on the poster behind me, replaces needles with a blunt plastic cannula. The blunt plastic cannula is inserted into a split septum access port. It's easy to use because it works in the same way as the old system of inserting a needle into a rubber bung. Because the procedure is the same,

it requires no staff training. Other benefits of the system are that it is a non-latex product so patient sensitivity is not a problem. It's also easy to flush the cannula because there are no internal moving parts, therefore fewer occlusions, for example blood clots.

Share your knowledge

Discuss the following questions in class or with a colleague and compare your experience.

How is Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S) in hospitals managed in your country?

What protocols are you familiar with which aim to reduce the number of needle-stick injuries?

In your experience, are needle-stick injuries a major problem?