

Introduction to IV Bolus Medication Administration (Focus on Empathy) Instructor Resource

READ the following:

Most IV bolus medications are given for pain. Imagine your patient is crying out in pain after surgery and says “Please give me something. It hurts so bad.” You check the medication administration record and realize the patient is overdue for pain medication. You go back to the nurse’s station to retrieve the medication and then back to the patient’s room, where you find him curled up wincing. “Just give it to me quick.” However, medication administration is not quick if you need to gather supplies, draw up from a vial, do your medication checks and administer it. You need to carefully administer IV bolus medications.

REFLECT on the situation:

Put yourself as the patient. What do you think he believes is taking so long?

Some patients think they have been forgotten about or the nurse does not care about their pain. Other patients understand that nurses are busy and perhaps the nurse is trying his/her best.

What can you say to this patient when time is important?

Reassurance and communication is key. Explain to the patient that you need to go get the medication and about how long it will take you. If you give a patient a time frame, it is important that you abide by it. Acknowledge the patient’s pain.

SHARE your thoughts with a peer.