

WG Critical Care Best Practices for Spiking Ready-To-Use (RTU) Bags:

In order to assure integrity of connection, IV administration sets must be completely inserted into the IV bag port.

A new IV administration set should be used with each RTU bag

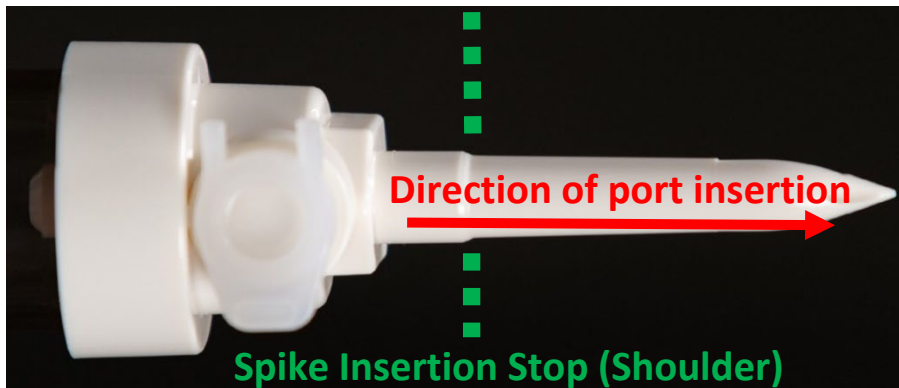
Spike preparation

- Care must be taken when spiking the bags as these contain a finished product containing an active pharmaceutical ingredient.
- When preparing for spike insertion, the RTU IV bag must be inverted with the Twist-off-Port (ToP), facing upright
- Verify that ToP tube is free from fluid.
- Do not spike while IV bag is hanging.

Spiking guidelines to ensure best connection / tightness

- Spike must be inserted into the port with one hand while holding the port tube with the other hand.
- No pressure should be applied to liquid portion of the bag when spiking.
- A twisting motion may be required to fully insert the spike into the port. Do not continue to twist once spike has been fully inserted and refrain from backing spike out.
- IV bags are single use only and should be spiked one time. Multiple attempts can increase the risk of contamination and air embolism as well as loosen the seal between the spike and port tube.
- At initial insertion, spike must be inserted in a straight direction, at minimum, up to Spike Insertion Stop (Shoulder), the location where insertion travel of the spike will or could be stopped or beyond this point. (See Figure 1)

Figure 1: Spike Insert (Closure piercing device)



CORRECT Spike Insertion

The final position of the spike is when the port is up to the spike insertion stop (shoulder – location where insertion travel of the spike will or could be stopped) or beyond this point, as indicated by the green dotted line. For examples of **correct spike insertion** refer to Figure 2 and Figure 3.

Figure 2: **CORRECT** spike insertion into the twist off port (piercing device all the way into the port)



Figure 3: **CORRECT** spike insertion into the twist off port (piercing device all the way into the port pushing beyond spike insertion stop)



INCORRECT Spike Insertion

The final spike position is not fully inserted and the port is not up to the spike insertion stop: green dotted line, exposing the spike shaft: area shaded purple. Example of **incorrect spike position** refer to Figure 4.

Figure 4: **INCORRECT** spike insertion into the twist off port (piercing device not all the way into the port)

