

# **Cathflo (Alteplase) Administration Quick-Reference Checklist**

For Home-Health RNs – by Arielle Tamez, RN BSN

## **Before You Begin:**

- Verify provider order for Cathflo (alteplase) 2 mg intracatheter.
- Review patient history, anticoagulant use, and recent procedures.
- Confirm occlusion through mechanical troubleshooting first.
- Gather supplies: Cathflo vial, 2.2 mL sterile water for injection, sterile syringe, filter or transfer needle, saline flushes, gloves, sterile field.

## **Reconstitution and Instillation:**

- Reconstitute Cathflo with 2.2 mL sterile water for injection. Gently swirl—do not shake.
- Draw up the ordered lumen volume (usually 2 mL). Label syringe with drug name, dose, and time.
- Instill medication slowly into occluded lumen using sterile technique.
- Clamp line and record dwell start time.

## **Dwell Period and Monitoring:**

- Allow medication to dwell for 30 minutes to 2 hours (maximum 4 hours).
- Monitor patient for bleeding or discomfort at site.
- Never flush the medication into the patient's bloodstream.
- If unable to return within the window, ensure another RN is scheduled to aspirate.

## **After the Dwell Period:**

- Gently attempt aspiration of medication and clot material.
- Discard aspirated contents per protocol.
- Flush with 10 mL normal saline once blood return is confirmed.
- If occlusion persists, notify the provider before repeating the dose.

**Documentation:**

- Record dwell start and end times, volume instilled, and outcome.
- Describe line response (e.g., flushes easily, blood return achieved).
- Document communication with provider and follow-up plan.
- Chart all patient observations and safety monitoring steps.

This checklist is for educational reference only and should be used in conjunction with your agency's policies, manufacturer guidelines, and current clinical judgment.