

# Inotrope Therapy

## Home Infusion for Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)

### Safety warning!

Never flush the end of the line that you use for the infusion. If you do, you will get the medicine way too fast.

If you have a catheter with more than 1 end, your nurse will show you how to flush the others. See the info sheet, “Flushing the Line with Heparin, Saline or Citrate.”

Inotropes (EYE-nuh-trohps) are medicines that help with symptoms of congestive heart failure, or CHF. Your inotrope medicine is either dobutamine (doh-BYU-tuh-meen) or milrinone (MIL-run-ohn).

### Instructions for home care

1. Check your weight daily. Weigh yourself at the same time each day and wear similar clothes.

Call us if your weight changes:

- more than 2 pounds in a single day OR
- 5 pounds over a week.

2. Change your medicine bag every \_\_\_\_\_ days. Follow the instructions your nurse gave you.
3. Change the batteries in the CADD pump every \_\_\_\_\_ days. See the patient information pump booklet. Call us if you have any questions about your pump.

### What to do with the backup pump

You will get a backup pump with your first delivery. Use this pump if your main pump stops working.

Always have your backup pump ready in case your pump fails. See “How to Exchange Your CADD Pump” for instructions.

### What to do with the extra medicine bag

You will get an extra medicine bag with each refill delivery. So you will always have 1 extra bag.

Use the extra bag:

- If you can't use another medicine bag for any reason. Call us if this happens. We will have another “extra” bag delivered to you.
- When you get each refill. Use the “extra” bag first, before using any of the new medicine bags.

Before using the extra bag, be sure it has **not** expired. Check the label for the expiration date or “use by” date.

**Call 911 for chest pain, trouble breathing, racing heart, dizziness or confusion.**