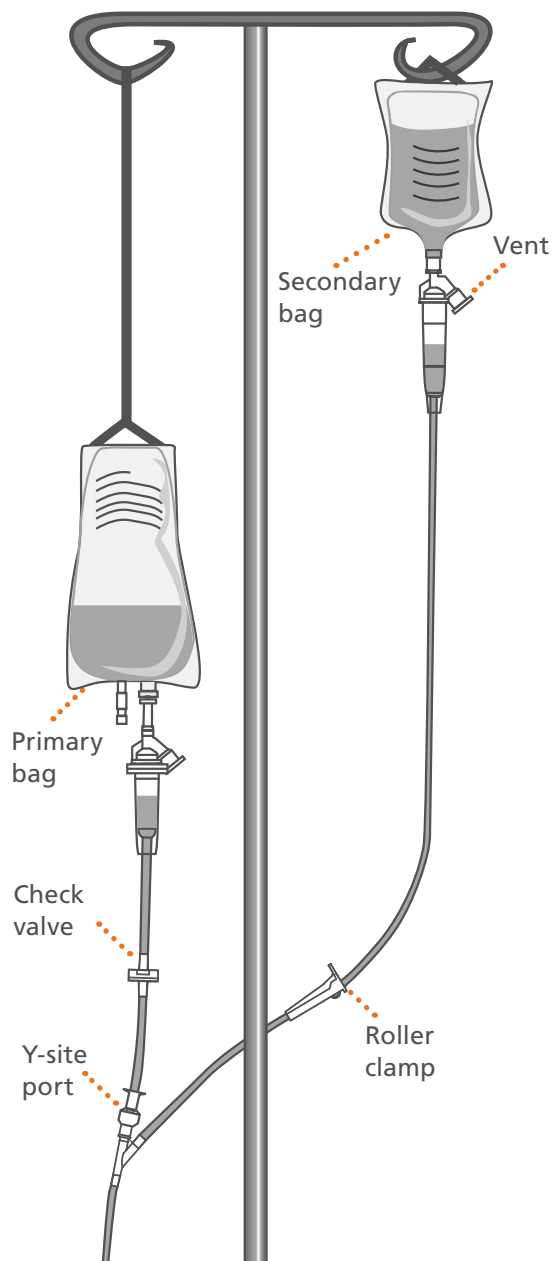# Secondary infusions: Backpriming technique

Accurate secondary mode infusion depends on hanging the secondary container sufficiently higher than the primary container.

Vent
Secondary bag
Primary bag
Check valve
Y-site port
Roller clamp

Note: The primary tubing must contain a check valve for automatic secondary delivery.

1. Prepare the secondary container by closing the roller clamp on the secondary tubing and spiking the secondary container.

2. Swab the top of the Y-site port on the primary tubing with appropriate antiseptic and attach the secondary line to the port.

3. To backprime, lower the secondary container to a level below the primary container.

4. Open the roller clamp on the secondary tubing.

5. Allow the fluid to backprime from the primary container into the secondary tubing.

6. Close the roller clamp once the secondary tubing is primed and the drip chamber is two-thirds full.

7. Hang the secondary container from the IV pole.

8. Hang the primary container lower using the hanger(s) provided with the secondary set.

9. Open the vent on the drip chamber if the secondary container is glass or semi-rigid.

10. Pump: Program the secondary infusion, open the secondary set roller clamp and start the infusion.

   When the infusion starts, ensure drops are falling in the secondary drip chamber and no drops are falling in the primary drip chamber.

Helpful hints

- If flow from the primary container occurs, the primary container may need to be lowered on an additional hanger
- Secondary flow rates of 500 mL/h or higher may result in unwanted flow from the primary container
- Backpriming of glass or semi-rigid containers may wet the vent, so it is not recommended

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