

## Ultrasound Guided Intravenous (IV) Therapy – Teaching Handout

Intravenous (IV) therapy is a type of treatment to deliver a liquid substance directly into a vein through a small, thin tube. You may have IV therapy to receive fluids, medication, nutrition, blood or blood products or as part of a medical test. An ultrasound machine is used to start an IV when a patient has veins that are hard to see through the skin. Patients with hard to see veins report that using ultrasound makes IV starts more comfortable.

A specially trained health care provider will start your IV with ultrasound. Before starting the IV, they will read and ask about your allergies, health conditions, health history and medications. You can ask them to tell you what they are doing before or during the IV start.

This is a safe procedure with no additional risk than an IV inserted without ultrasound. Risks associated with IV insertion include pain, bruising, bleeding, infection, not being able to find the vein, leaking of fluid from the site, damage to blood vessels or nerves, blood clots or allergic reactions. Please let your health care provider know if you see redness, swelling or bruising or feel ongoing pain after insertion, numbness, tingling or fluid leaking from your IV. Also tell them if you start having chest pain or a hard time breathing.

**If you have any questions, please ask the health care provider doing the procedure.**

**Please take a few minutes to tell us how your procedure went by completing the short survey following QR code below.**

