

Optimizing secondary infusion performance

Alaris® products

With gravity-driven secondary mode infusions, several factors influence the duration of the infusion including:

- Large secondary containers (500 mL or greater)
- High secondary rates (500 mL/h or greater)
- Use of a non-CareFusion secondary set (which has the potential to cause restriction at the point of connection to the primary set port)
- Use of closed-system devices above the pump (which creates flow restriction in the secondary path)

Each of these factors above can cause concurrent flow from the primary container. Concurrent flow, also known as sympathetic flow, occurs when the primary and secondary infusions are flowing at the same time. This will cause a delay in the delivery of the secondary infusion. Follow these steps to perform a quick test at the start of the secondary infusion to check whether concurrent flow is going to occur:

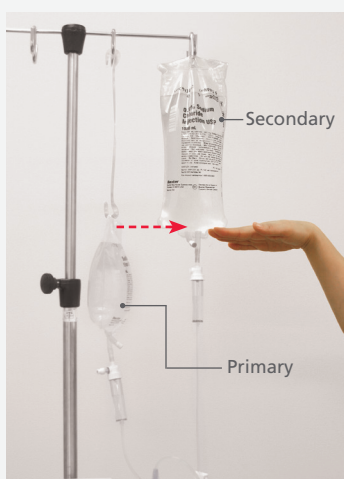


Figure 1



Figure 2

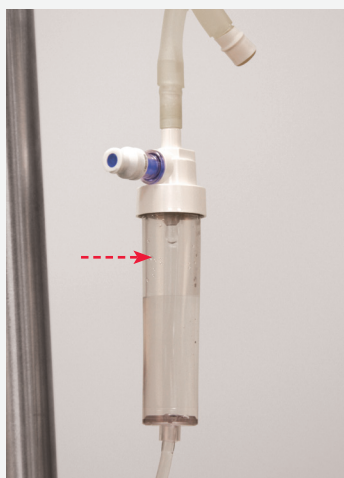


Figure 3

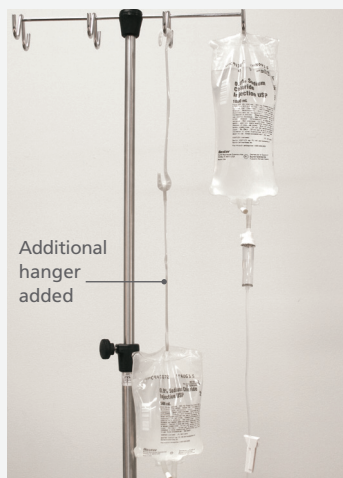


Figure 4

1. Set up as usual by lowering the primary container on a fully extended hanger.
2. Start the secondary infusion.
3. Note the level of the bottom of the secondary container. (Figure 1) By hand, lower the secondary container so that the top of the fluid in that container is where it will be when the container empties. (Figure 2)
4. Watch for drops in the primary drip chamber (ideally for 30 seconds). (Figure 3)
5. If drops are seen, lower the primary fluid further on an additional hanger. (Figure 4)

Note: The top of the fluid in the primary container should never be lower than the y-site port, to reduce the risk of air entering the set. (Ideally the upper y-site should be at least 3 inches lower than the primary fluid level.)

For product support, contact Customer Advocacy at 888.812.3266 or customerfeedback@carefusion.com.

For technical support, contact Instrument Technical Support at 888.812.3229.

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