



FAQ Sheet:

BIOPATCH® use with Implanted Ports in Ambulatory Settings

1. What size BIOPATCH® should I use when accessing an implanted port?

You should use the small, 1.9 cm (0.75 in) by 1.5 mm BIOPATCH® with ports (not the larger ones used with PICC and other central lines). The smaller BIOPATCH® allows for better visualization of the port site and earlier identification of potential problems, such as leaking or needle displacement.

2. When should I use a BIOPATCH® when accessing a port?

A BIOPATCH® is not indicated for short-term infusions (i.e. <24 hours). Only use one if the patient will have their port accessed for **more than 24 hours**. Examples of this include, but are not limited to:

- a. Patients who are being admitted, or you anticipate will be admitted.
- b. Patients going home with continuous infusion chemo, TPN or IV hydration.
- c. Patients receiving intermittent therapy over a several day period, who do not want their port re-accessed each time (e.g. IV antibiotics, multi-day chemotherapy treatments or blood transfusions)

3. Can I access a port with the same length needle I usually use when adding a BIOPATCH®?

Use of the BIOPATCH® may affect the length of the needle a patient requires. For patients w/deeper ports, you should error on the side of caution and use a longer needle than you might normally use. For example, if a patient usually requires a ¾ inch needle that sits very flush with the skin, consider using a 1 inch needle and supporting it underneath with a gauze pad if needed.

4. Can I use a needle stabilization device (e.g. Huber StatLock) with the BIOPATCH®?

Yes. If using a needle stabilization device, the BIOPATCH® goes directly on the skin and the needle stabilization device goes over it.

5. Can I use a BIOPATCH® if a patient has a skin sensitivity to chlorhexidine swabs?

No, you shouldn't. Because the Biopatch® is a chlorhexidine impregnated sponge, the patient will likely react to it as well.

For Questions, contact the Clinical Specialists of Yawkey 8 Infusion:

Cyndi Bowes, RN, MSN (31790)

Always remember...Blue side up to the skies!