

SimLa Innovations

Project: **I.V. Bag Reuse**

Materials: Umbilical clamps (relocking type; not the permanent locking type) – that’s it!

Cost: \$1.00

Time: 10 minutes

Details: Once IV bags are spiked, it is difficult to reuse them. The cost of just tossing them is also not environmentally sound. A very simple solution is to refill the bags (I use a 60 cc Luer-lock syringe - the tip fits just inside the bag). Once refilled, simply clamp the open port with the umbilical clamp (Image) *ta-da*. I also reinsert the blue manufacturers’ tip to the opening. During your next scenario, the student will pop the blue tab and spike the bag as normal. They will have to get used to unclamping the umbilical clamp and laying it on the IV pump until the end of the scenario (along with the blue tab). You can also print different IV labels and tape it to bag with packing tape and save even more money (and landfill space).

I have seen (and used) golf tees (purchased at thrift stores) to insert in the bag’s opening, but these can get wedged in place and become difficult to remove.

