

Free Prescriptions

All cancer patients undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer or the effects of cancer treatment can apply for an exemption certificate for a free prescription from their GP.

How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand rub (special gel) available at the main entrance of the hospital and at the entrance to every ward before coming in to and after leaving the ward or hospital. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand rub. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk

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Cleaning and dressing your tunnelled central venous catheter

Patient information leaflet

If you require a translation or an alternative format of this leaflet please ask for assistance

Safe & compassionate care,

every time

Introduction

This leaflet has been designed to help you care for your tunnelled central venous catheter.

Your tunnelled central venous catheter will initially have two sutures, both covered with individual dressings. These dressings will remain in place for 24 hours, unless they are wet or bleeding.

The top suture will be removed after 7 days. The suture at the exit site will be removed after three weeks. The dressing will need to be changed weekly as instructed by the nurse they will also show you what to do initially. The site should be cleaned with Chlora-prep sticks (2% chlorhexidine and 70% alcohol).

The dressing should be a sterile transparent dressing, a sterile dry dressing or Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG) dressing if you are receiving parenteral nutrition, have acute myeloid leukaemia or have received peripheral blood stem cell transfusion.

CUROS port protectors are also used for the patient group mentioned above.

- 1) Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for about a minute and dry well.
- 2) Prepare a clean work surface.
- 3) Open the dressing.
- 4) Take off the old dressing and dispose of in a bin.
- 5) Wash your hands again.
- 6) Using the chlora-prep stick, clean around the exit site, in an up and down and sideways motion.
- 7) Allow to dry. This is important as it is the drying process that eradicates any bacteria.
- 8) Apply a clean dressing.

If a dressing gets wet or soiled it **must be** changed immediately.

Bathing or showering with a tunnelled central venous catheter

If you bathe with a tunnelled central venous catheter it is important **not to** get the line or the exit site immersed in water.

When showering take off the dressing and then the line can get wet and cleaned under the shower, as it is clean water. After your shower it is important to clean the exit site afterwards with the chlora-prep and allow to dry, as per the above instructions. The alcohol will eradicate any bacteria, helping to prevent any potential line infection.

NB If using a powerful shower, do not put the flow directly over the line.

If you have any problems call:

(Haematology or Oncology contact sticker to be applied here)

Possible problems

Infection

It is possible for an infection to develop inside or around the area where the line enters the vein. If this area becomes red, swollen or painful or if you develop a temperature, you should call your hospital on the numbers that the nurse has given to you where you will be able to get advise.