

## Patient advice sheet

### Removal of Tunnelled cuffed catheter (HICKMAN)

This leaflet is designed to give you information about your Hickman removal

#### Introduction

You have been treated using a special type of catheter called a Hickman line. It has been decided that you no longer require the device. Your Hickman line will be removed by a trained healthcare professional either in the Xray department, theatres or ward.

#### Possible risks and complications

Every procedure carries some risks and complications. Before the line is removed the nurse or doctor will fully explain the risks to you to ensure you agree to proceed. You will also be asked at your appointment for your / your carer's verbal consent before going ahead.

#### Aftercare

After removal of the Hickman, you may have one or two areas that will need a dressing applied (to the neck or chest area). You will also be informed if you have sutures (also known as 'stitches') or steri-strips in place.

Sutures will require removal after 7-10 days

Steri--strips after 4 –7 days (these will normally fall off)

Both can be removed by your practice nurse or referring unit / ward.

You will receive a call 24 hours following removal (or after a weekend) to check all is ok with the removal sites.

#### Who to contact

Contact us:

- if at any time you are worried about your removal areas e.g. redness, inflammation, pain, new oozing or bleeding **or**
- if you develop an ongoing temperature, shortness of breath or pain on breathing.

You should contact the Nurse or department where you received your treatment or had your Hickman removed. They will be pleased to discuss your concerns and, if necessary, check the area.

#### Radiology (Xray) Nursing team

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm Tel: 01296 316936

#### IV Therapy/OPAT Team:

Monday – Sunday 8:30am – 4:30pm Tel: 01296 315485 or 07810 181584

Bank Holidays 9:00am – 4:30pm Tel: 07810 181584 (on call basis)

#### Acute Oncology Team – Emergency telephone triage:

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 6:00pm Tel: 01296 315139

**Cancer Care and Haematology Unit, Stoke Mandeville Hospital:**

Monday – Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm Tel: 01296 315125

**Sunrise Cancer Unit, Wycombe Hospital:**

Monday – Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm Tel: 01494 426238

**Ward 5, Stoke Mandeville Hospital**

24 hours/day Tel: 01296 316336

---

**How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?**

Infection prevention & control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection prevention & control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. Please follow our infection prevention and control guidelines when visiting our healthcare sites. Further information is available on our website.

**If you need advice or further assistance, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS):**

call 01296 316042 or email [bht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:bht.pals@nhs.net)

Please remember that this leaflet is intended as general information only. We aim to make the information as up to date and accurate as possible, but please note that it is subject to change. Please therefore always check specific advice on any concerns you may have with your doctor.