Advice to Patients with a Cannula



What is a cannula?

Your cannula is a small tube that has been placed into a vein. This is used to administer intravenous drugs and fluids.

The following information will help you and your visitors understand a number of points in relation to its care.

How should the cannula be cared for?

The point at which your cannula enters your skin must be kept clean and dry. Before the cannula is put in a member of staff will clean their hands and your skin will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution. A sterile transparent dressing will be placed over the cannula to keep the site clean. Staff will also observe the site through the dressing on a regular basis. Before staff can use your cannula, they must clean their hands.

They will then clean the connector that they use to join up drugs and fluids to your cannula. Before they administer your drugs or fluids they will use a small amount of saline in a syringe to flush and check the cannula is safe to use.

If you are not sure if the doctor or nurse has washed their hands, then it is acceptable to ask. If you have fluids in place, your line should not be disconnected to change clothes or shower.

compassionate care

How will my cannula be held in place?

Your cannula will have been held to your skin with a special sterile transparent dressing. This dressing should be changed if soiled or becomes loose. Additional dressings such as bandages are not routinely used. If bandages are used staff will remove these on a regular basis to check the cannula site.

Should my cannula be replaced at set intervals?

Your cannula should be inspected by the nurse at each shift to check for early signs of phlebitis (inflammation of the vein). The cannula should be removed if complications occur.

What can I do to help?

- Inform the staff if you have any concerns regarding your cannula, or if the dressing has become soiled or loose.
- Inform the nursing staff if the cannula has become painful.
- Also if your cannula has not been used for 24 hours, please remind the staff, you may be able to have it removed.
- The dressing is waterproof but it is still advisable not to immerse it in water.
- Avoid touching the cannula and try to protect it from knocks.
- Take extra care when dressing and undressing, wearing clothing with loose fitting sleeves will help.
- Avoid wearing jewellery on the same arm as the cannula.

How else can I help?

Report to staff any redness, pain or swelling at the cannula site. Staff will regularly check your cannula, but you can inform staff when drip bags are empty. You may need new fluid or your cannula may need flushing. Empty drip bags increase the chance of your cannula blocking.

On discharge

If you are being discharged from hospital and you still have a cannula in place, please remind staff so it can be removed unless you are to receive ongoing treatment at home.

Going home with a cannula

If the cannula insertion site becomes red, sore, swollen or becomes dislodged please contact the name below as soon as possible for removal.

If the cannula accidently gets knocked out then apply gently pressure for 1-2 minutes to stop any bleeding and then cover with a plaster or gauze and tape. The dressing should be left for at least 2 hours.

If you have any concerns regarding your cannula at home, please contact

.....

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Nurse in Charge, Ward 8
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary
Telephone (01484) 342000
contact via switchboard
or
Nurse in Charge, Ward 2
Calderdale Royal Hospital
Telephone (01422) 357171
contact via switchboard

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਬਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉੱਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں.

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم المذكور أعلاه"