



1. It is perfectly all right for you to use the affected arm (within the limitations discussed by your nurse or physician). This will ensure good blood flow around the catheter and reduce the potential for complications.
2. You should keep the catheter & extension set covered and secured at all times. Use of stretch gauze, an ace bandage or an old, clean tube sock with the foot removed is recommended. It is important that this line be kept clean & dry at all times.
3. You may shower with this line in place. The catheter should be protected from a direct spray of water. This can be accomplished by wrapping the area with a clean, dry facecloth and covering it with plastic wrap, then taping the top & bottom of the plastic wrap around the arm with tape. Do not tape it too tightly!
4. A small red bump may develop at the site where your catheter was inserted. This is normal. However, you should feel no pain or see any drainage after the initial bandage has been changed.
5. You should watch for the following:
  - excessive bleeding or drainage from the catheter exit site
  - redness or swelling at the catheter exit site
  - pain, soreness or swelling of the arm where the catheter has been placed
  - chest pain or discomfort while your catheter is in place
  - catheter movement either in or out of the catheter exit site
  - fever > 101°

If any of the above symptoms occur, please call your nurse at

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6. If you encounter a catheter leak or accidentally break or damage the catheter, fold the catheter or apply a clamp above the break or leak. Tape it securely to your arm and call your nurse immediately at
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7. **If your catheter is not being used to administer IV medications, in order to keep your IV catheter functioning, you must flush each lumen of the catheter using the following procedure :**

- **Gather** the supplies you will need: Saline Flush syringe, Heparin Flush Syringe (if prescribed), alcohol wipes and wastebasket.
- **Wash** your hands with soap and warm water. Dry with paper towel or clean, dry towel.

**FLUSHING YOUR CATHETER** (Follow this procedure for EACH Flush)

1. Remove the Flush syringe from the plastic wrapper.
2. Leaving the IV cap on the end of the syringe, hold the syringe upright and push on the plunger to break the seal inside the syringe.
3. Open an alcohol wipe.
4. Remove the cap from the end of the syringe. To keep the end of the syringe sterile, do not touch the end of the syringe with your fingers or anything else (if you accidentally touch the tip, discard the syringe and use a new one). Holding the syringe upright, gently push on the plunger to remove any air.
5. While holding the flush syringe in one hand, use the other hand to **scrub** the cap on the end of the IV catheter with the alcohol wipe for 30 seconds. Let dry.
6. Attach the flush syringe to the cap on the end of the IV catheter by pushing it into the cap and screwing it on.
7. Make sure that all clamps on the extension set and IV catheter are open.
8. Gently push on the plunger to flush the catheter with the specified amount. **If at this point, any resistance, pain or swelling is noted, STOP IMMEDIATELY and call your nurse.**
9. **Follow this same procedure each time you flush your catheter with saline and / or heparin.**
10. After your last flush, if instructed by your nurse, clamp your IV catheter.

**Flush each lumen of your catheter as follows:**

Saline flush \_\_\_\_\_ mls \_\_\_\_\_ times per day at \_\_\_\_\_

Heparin flush \_\_\_\_\_ mls \_\_\_\_\_ times per day at \_\_\_\_\_

## CATHETER INFORMATION

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Physician \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

IV Nurse Name \_\_\_\_\_

IV Nurse Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Care Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Home Care Agency Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

Date Inserted \_\_\_\_\_

Catheter Brand Name \_\_\_\_\_

Inserted by \_\_\_\_\_

Catheter Length \_\_\_\_\_ Catheter Gauge \_\_\_\_\_

External Catheter Length \_\_\_\_\_

Your catheter has been threaded approximately \_\_\_\_\_ cm into the  
\_\_\_\_\_ vein.

Your initial upper arm circumference (6 inches above the insertion site) was  
\_\_\_\_\_ cm.

The medications you are receiving through this catheter are:

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |