



Purpose of Your Intravenous Catheter

Your intravenous catheter was placed by a doctor or nurse for the purpose of providing an easy access for the administration of medications when oral medications are not available or appropriate due to medical reasons. At times and if appropriate, your intravenous catheter may also be used to obtain blood samples when needed for testing.

It is very important that you follow the instructions that the doctor or nurse have given you regarding the use and care of your intravenous catheter.

By following these instructions, you can prevent possible complications such as infection and / or clotting of your catheter.

To Help Prevent Infection and / or Clotting of Your Intravenous Catheter:

- Always wash your hands with soap and warm water before touching your catheter.
- Keep your catheter clean and dry at all times.
- Keep the port on the end of your catheter capped at all times.
- Examine your intravenous catheter site daily for any redness, swelling, drainage or loosened sutures.
- Protect the area from injury and accidental removal of the catheter.
- Always follow the instructions provided by your nurse regarding the care of your catheter dressing and the flushing of your catheter.

Contact your Nurse or Doctor if you Develop ANY of the following Symptoms:

- Fever above 101.
- Difficulty in administration of your intravenous medications.
- Difficulty with the flushing of your intravenous catheter.
- Any redness, swelling, drainage or loosened sutures at the catheter site

Other Points to Remember:

- Always keep supplies and medications out of the reach of children or pets.
- Always check the medication label for YOUR name, the MEDICATION NAME, DOSE and EXPIRATION DATE.
- Always check the medication itself for any discoloration or particles.