**Your Peripheral Cannula**

**What is Intravenous (IV) Therapy?**

IV Therapy is the term used when medication is given to you directly into a vein.

**How does the medication get into my vein?**

A flexible hollow plastic tube called a cannula is inserted into the vein and the medication is given through this. The cannula allows us to give you medicines directly into your bloodstream, without needing to give you a separate injection each time.

**Who will give my IV medication and care for my cannula?**

A Community Nurse will come to your home to care for your cannula, observe your condition and give your medication as prescribed.

**How can I help to care for my cannula?**

To prevent infection your cannula must be kept clean and dry. A transparent dressing will cover the area and should be left in place. You should avoid heavy lifting and excessive movement.

**You can help to prevent infection in the following ways:**

* Avoid touching the cannula and dressing
* Keep clothing next to the cannula clean
* Have a daily bath or shower to keep your skin clean
* Try to keep the cannula dry, do not immerse it in water

**What if my cannula accidentally comes out?**

Apply pressure to the area with gauze or a clean tissue for at least ten minutes and raise the affected area. Once the bleeding has stopped, apply a plaster and telephone your Community Nurse.

**What do I do if my cannula becomes dislodged and starts bleeding?**

As the cannula is sitting in a vein there is a risk of bleeding if it becomes accidentally dislodged. There is no need to panic if this happens. Apply pressure to the area.

Usually any bleeding will stop within a few minutes. If the bleeding does not stop then keep applying pressure to the area and raise it above your head. If you are worried, concerned or unable to stop the bleeding after ten minutes, contact your Community Nurse immediately.

**What will happen at the end of my treatment?**

A nurse will remove the cannula when your course of IV treatment is finished. A dry sterile dressing will be applied, which you can remove after 24 hours. A letter will be sent to your doctor to say that your course of IV treatment has finished.

**TO CONTACT A COMMUNITY NURSE:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Birmingham Patients** | **Solihull Patients** | **South Staffordshire Patients** |
| **0300 555 1919 Option 2****(24 hours)** | **0121 717 4333** **(24 hours)** | **01827 263884****(24 hours)** |

**Our commitment to confidentiality**

We keep personal and clinical information about you to ensure you receive appropriate care and treatment. Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. We will share information with other parts of the NHS to support your healthcare needs, and we will inform your GP of your progress unless you ask us not to.

If we need to share information that identifies you with other organisations we will ask for your consent. You can help us by pointing out any information in your records which is wrong or needs updating.

**Additional Sources of Information:**

Go online and view NHS Choices website for more information about a wide range of health topics <http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

You may want to visit one of our Health Information Centres located in:

* Main Entrance at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital Tel: 0121 424 2280
* Treatment Centre at Good Hope Hospital Tel: 0121 424 9946

 or contact us by email: healthinfo.centre@heartofengland.nhs.uk.

Dear Patient

We welcome your views on what you liked and suggestions for how things could be improved at this hospital. If you would like to tell us and others about your experience please make your comments through one of the following sites:

* NHS Choice:-           [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)
* Patient Opinion:-      [www.patientopinion.org.uk](http://www.patientopinion.org.uk)
* I want great care:-    [www.iwantgreatcare.org](http://www.iwantgreatcare.org) (Here you can leave feedback about your doctor)

Be helpful and respectful: think about what people might want to know about this hospital or how your experiences might benefit others. Remember your words must be polite and respectful, and you cannot name individuals on the NHS Choice or Patient Opinion sites.

**If you have any questions you may want to ask about your condition or treatment, or anything you do not understand or wish to know more about, write them down and your doctor will be more than happy to try and answer them for you.**

