

Care of an Intravenous Cannula

Patient Information

Community React Team-Integrated Services

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Introduction

This leaflet will provide you with information on how to care for an intravenous cannula whilst receiving your treatment.

A cannula is a hollow plastic tube designed for insertion into a vein. The tube contains a sharp needle, which guides the cannula into the vein. Once the cannula is in place, the needle is removed and disposed of safely.

Instructions on the care of the cannula

- Keep the dressing that covers the cannula clean and dry.
- Take care when removing items of clothing so that you do not catch the cannula.
- If there is any pain or swelling around the site of the cannula, inform the Community React Team or the District Nurses Evening and Night Service.

As the cannula is fragile, movement can easily dislodge it. If the cannula becomes dislodged:

- Carefully remove the dressing and immediately apply firm pressure over the site for three to four minutes or until the bleeding has stopped.
- Cover the site with a small sticking plaster.
- Place the cannula in a small plastic bag and put it in a safe place, out of the reach of children, until a nurse visit.

If the bleeding continues for more than 30 minutes or you require any further advice or assistance, please contact one of the following services.

District Nurses Evening and Night Service

8:30pm to 8am **Telephone:** 01942 481155 **Mobile:** 07860 794654

Community React Team

Monday to Sunday: 8am to 8:30pm **Telephone:** 01942 822642 or 822639

Contact information

If you have any questions or queries, which we have not covered in this leaflet, please contact us:

Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/leaflets/

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information please ask in the department/ward.

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Call 111 first when it's less urgent than 999.