

# Midline Intravenous (IV) Catheter

## **What is a midline IV catheter?**

A midline catheter is a soft, thin tube that is placed in a vein in your arm.

## **What is a midline IV catheter used for?**

A midline catheter can be used to sample blood or get medicine or fluids inside the body without having several needle sticks.

## **How long will the midline IV catheter last?**

The midline catheter can stay in place for up to 29 days. It is removed by a qualified professional.

## **What are some important tips to remember?**

- Wash hands thoroughly using warm water and liquid soap before touching the midline.
- The dressing should be changed weekly or sooner if it becomes wet, loose, or dirty.
- **NEVER USE SCISSORS or sharp objects** near the midline IV catheter.
- Check the skin around the midline IV catheter daily. Watch for any signs of infection such as:
  - Redness/warmth/swelling/red streak running up your arm
  - A “knot” that feels like a cord anywhere on your arm
  - Tenderness
  - Pain
  - Fever/chills
  - Bleeding or drainage at the insertion or exit site

**If you have difficulty breathing, or have chest pains, dizziness, or confusion call 911 immediately. Clamp the midline IV catheter near where it enters your arm, lie down with your head lower than your hips and feet, and stay calm until help arrives.**

## **How do I care for my midline IV catheter?**

The nurse will change your dressing on a weekly basis (or more often as needed). The dressing change is a sterile procedure. You will learn how to flush your midline IV catheter before and after giving your IV medicine.

If blood leaks out from the clear bandage, do not remove the bandage. Wash your hands and put pressure on the area that is bleeding with a gauze pad. Call your home infusion nurse.

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### **How do I bathe or shower when I have a midline IV catheter?**

Keep your dressing clean and dry to help prevent infection. The best thing to do is use a plastic wrap that self-seals such as Glad® Press'n Seal® or another type of water-proof protective device.

- Cover the dressing and midline catheter tubing in plastic wrap so that it is snug and secure but not too tight so that it cuts off blood circulation. The self-sealing wrap should make a tight seal next to your skin. If using a non-sealing wrap, you will need to tape at the top and bottom of the wrap around your arm.
- Be sure to check that water does not get in underneath the plastic wrap.
- After bathing, remove the plastic wrap right away and check to see if the dressing is completely dry.

### **How is my midline IV catheter removed?**

The midline IV catheter may be removed at your doctor's office, at an ambulatory infusion center, or by your home health nurse. The dressing will be removed and the catheter will be gently pulled out. Most patients do not experience any discomfort. A sterile gauze pad will be placed over the exit site and can be removed after 24 hours.

**For questions or concerns, please call Regional Health Home+ Home Infusion at (605) 755-1150.**