



# Caring for your invasive device

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Version 4

## > About this leaflet

The purpose of this leaflet is to tell you about Invasive Devices, how they are inserted, and what you need to do to look after them.

## > What is an Invasive Device?

An invasive device is a specific piece of equipment required to deliver specialist care for your treatment. Some of the devices that may be used during your treatment may include:

- Peripheral Venous Catheter (PVC) which may be referred to as an 'IV', 'drip' or a 'venflon'.
- Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC).
- Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump (IABP).
- Central Venous Catheter (CVC).
- Central line.
- Indwelling urinary catheter.

## > How will the device be inserted?

A member of staff will obtain your consent, explain your treatment, the type of device that you require and what to expect.

We will take every precaution when inserting the device to help prevent infection by:

- performing hand hygiene and putting on a plastic disposable apron and clean gloves;
- carefully cleaning the insertion site on your skin;
- using a technique which reduces the risk of infection; and
- applying a sterile dressing to protect the device, where appropriate.

## > Why is important to look after the device?

As the device is inserted through your skin, it breaks your body's natural defences and can potentially lead to an infection. The nurse caring for you will explain more about the use and care of your device.

Your device will stay in place until it is no longer needed as part of your treatment.

Please be assured that we will:

- remove your device when no longer required;
- replace it as necessary; and
- inspect the area around the device at least daily to ensure the skin around it is not red or painful.



Staff caring for you should:

- wash/alcohol gel their hands before and after touching your device;
- check your device site at least daily;
- if applicable, check the dressing covering your device is clean and intact; and
- if applicable, ensure your urinary catheter drainage bag does not touch the floor.

Please feel free to ask staff to do this.

## Important information

- **Do not** interfere with or touch your device as this can cause germs to get in.
- **Do not** touch the dressing or area around your device.
- **Do** keep your hands clean by performing hand hygiene.
- **Do** take care when removing clothing to avoid catching your device.

**You must** inform staff:

- if the dressing becomes wet, dirty, loose or falls off;
- if you feel any pain or discomfort; and
- if you feel hot, cold or shivery.

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