Caring for a Hickman or Broviac Central Line Catheter

Receiving medicine and supplies
When you receive a shipment, make sure you have the correct medicine and supplies. Check the medicine, supplies and invoice for your child's name, prescription and quantity. If all is correct, sign/date the invoice and accept the delivery. It is important to keep the yellow copy of your invoices for future reference. We are unable to take back any supplies once they are in your home. Carefully look at the syringes, checking for cracks, leaks or discoloration and that they have not expired. See the pharmacy label for storage of medication and supplies.

Bathing
• Your child can shower or bathe. However, do not submerge the catheter or dressing under water.
• Protect the catheter cap from moisture by using Parafilm. Cut a large square. Scrub the cap and connection to the catheter with alcohol for 15 seconds, then let dry for 15 seconds. Stretch the Parafilm over the catheter cap and connection to the catheter hub.
• Protect the catheter dressing by placing Aqua Guard or cling-wrap (such as Glad Press 'n Seal or generic version) over the dressing.
• Inspect the dressing after bathing. If it is loose with water underneath, change the dressing. Only change the dressing if you have been trained by Home Care Services.

Securing the catheter
Place a small amount of tape around the catheter lumens and use a bulldog clamp to attach the lumens to the child's clothing. You may also request netting from Home Care to place as a tube around the chest area.

Flushing the syringes
#______ saline syringes with ______ ml of saline per syringe.
#______ heparin (_____ unit/ml) syringes with _____ ml of heparin per syringe.
☐ Saline flush syringe
☐ Yellow Heparin syringe 100 units/ml
☐ Blue heparin flush syringe 10 units/ml
Supplies

- Work surface or tray
- Cleaning product
- Alcohol-based hand gel
- Non-sterile gloves
- Alcohol pads
- Aqua Guard
- MicroClave catheter cap
- Parafilm
- Emergency kit
- Drape

Preparing the work surface
1. Clean the work surface well with disinfectant and allow to air dry.
2. Wash hands well with soap and water.
3. Open a drape, handling the edges only, and place on the cleaned surface.
4. Arrange the supplies on the drape.

Flushing the catheter
1. Wash or gel hands. Put on gloves.
2. Place a second drape under the catheter.
4. Remove the air from the saline syringe.
5. Attach the saline syringe to the catheter.
6. Unclamp the catheter.
7. Flush briskly with saline.
8. Remove the saline syringe.
9. Repeat with the heparin flush syringe.
10. Clamp the catheter and remove the syringe.
11. Remove gloves. Wash or gel hands.
12. Repeat steps 1 through 11 if the catheter has more than 1 lumen.
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Changing the catheter cap
Change the catheter cap 1 time a week and as needed.

1. Wash or gel hands. Put on gloves.
2. Place the drape under the catheter.
3. Attach the saline syringe to the catheter cap.
4. Scrub the connection between the catheter and cap for 15 seconds. Let dry for 15 seconds.
5. Check that the catheter is clamped. Remove the old catheter cap from the catheter.
6. Inspect the catheter’s hub for debris and old blood. You may gently and carefully wipe OUTSIDE of the catheter’s hub with a new alcohol pad. Let dry.
7. Attach the catheter cap with the attached syringe to the catheter hub.
8. Unclamp the catheter. Flush briskly with saline.
9. Remove the saline syringe, leaving the new cap on the catheter.
10. Attach the heparin syringe and flush.
11. Clamp the catheter and remove the syringe.
12. Remove gloves. Wash or gel hands.
13. Repeat steps 1 through 12 if the catheter has more than 1 lumen.

Dressing change supplies

Changing the dressing for Hickman lines
1. Clean the work surface well with disinfectant, and allow to air dry.
2. Wash hands well with soap and water.
3. Gather the supplies and place them in a clean spot near the work area.
4. Open the dressing change kit. Handling the edges only, carefully open the drape that covers the supplies. The inside of this wrapper will become the “sterile field.”
5. Remove the sterile gloves pack and set aside.
6. Open and drop the Biopatch onto the sterile drape.
7. Add/drop additional supplies, as needed.
8. Wash or gel hands. Put on non-sterile gloves.
9. Carefully remove the old dressing.
10. Remove gloves and wash or gel hands. Put on sterile gloves.
11. Open the ChloraPrep triple swab packet.
12. Scrub the catheter site and surrounding skin with each swab stick for 10 seconds.
13. Allow the area to fully dry for at least 30 seconds.
14. Take 1 alcohol pad and hold the catheter near the skin. Take a second alcohol pad and swab the length of the catheter away from the skin 1 time only.
15. Let dry.
16. Wipe skin where transparent dressing (such as Tegaderm) will cover with Cavilon. Avoid area where you will put the Biopatch.
17. Allow the area to fully dry for at least 30 seconds. Do not pat dry, blow or wipe.
18. Place the Biopatch with the blue side up over the insertion site and around the catheter.
19. Make a loop in the catheter. Place the transparent dressing (such as Tegaderm) over the site including the loop, securing the catheter.

**Troubleshooting chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Redness, drainage, swelling or pain at the site</td>
<td>Call Home Care Services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rash or skin irritation under the transparent dressing</td>
<td>Make sure the ChloraPrep cleanser is drying completely before the dressing is placed onto the skin. If rash or skin irritation persists, call Home Care Services for an evaluation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dressing loosened</td>
<td>Dressing edges may be reinforced by cutting pieces of a transparent dressing and placing them along the loosened edges only. Call Home Care Services for an evaluation if you need to reinforce more than twice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Caring for a Hickman or Broviac Central Line Catheter

### To Learn More
- Home Care Services 425-482-4000
toll-free 800-888-4429
- Ask your child’s healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

### Free Interpreter Services
- In the hospital, ask your child’s nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

### Difficulty flushing
- Observe the catheter for kinks and closed clamps. If the catheter is kinked under the dressing, change the dressing. Call Home Care Services if you are still unable to flush the line.

### Problem | Solution
--- | ---
Leaking | Tighten the connections, especially the catheter cap. Flush again. If leaking continues, change the cap and flush again. Look for leaks along the catheter and under the dressing. Call Home Care Services if the leaking continues.

Puncture, tear or crack in the IV catheter | If leaking is occurring from the opening in the catheter, place a bulldog clamp between the leak and the catheter insertion site. Wrap an alcohol pad around the leak, then wrap gauze around the alcohol pad. Tape securely. Call Home Care Services immediately.

Blood back-up in the catheter | This is NOT an emergency. Flush with saline and heparin. Remember to keep the catheter clamped.

### Who to call
- For emergencies: Call 911 for **ALL** emergencies. Notify Home Care Services about your child’s status after the emergency situation is addressed.
- For urgent issues after business hours Call Home Care Services at 425-482-4000 or 800-888-4429, and press “0” to reach our answering service for urgent issues that cannot wait until the morning or if you are unsure what to do. A Home Care Services nurse will return your call as soon as possible.
- For supplies: Contact Home Care Services between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to order supplies. Call 425-482-4000 or 800-888-4429. Please contact us at least 1 week ahead so that you do not run out. Always keep an extra 3 to 5 days of supplies, and 1 dose of medication on hand in case of emergency.