



Information for
patients and
carers

Looking after your child's cannula
at home

What is a cannula and why is it needed?

A cannula is a flexible tube that has been placed in a vein. It is usually on the back of the hand or the inside of the elbow but sometimes can be placed on your child's foot. Your child has been seen by a doctor who has decided they need treating with intravenous antibiotics. This means that their medicine is being given directly into a vein. If your child is deemed well enough, we can discharge you from the ward and send you and your child home with the children's community nurses to give the antibiotic at your home. If this is not possible for your child, we may send you home 'on leave' between antibiotics, but you must arrive back on the ward at the time your nurse tells you so she/he can give the antibiotics at the right time.

How is the cannula secured?

Once the cannula is inserted, it is bandaged to protect it.

For smaller children and babies, a splint may also be used to support and protect the cannula.

Whilst at home it is important to protect the cannula as it could still get knocked or dislodged:

- Do not allow it to get wet
- Take care when removing your child's clothing
- Ensure your child is supervised when playing

What happens if the cannula comes out?

If the cannula comes out whilst at home, use a clean tissue or cloth to apply pressure to the site for about 2-5 minutes, as it may bleed a little. When the bleeding stops cover the site with a plaster, if available.

Please telephone either the children's community nurses or the paediatric assessment unit (PAU) and inform them as a further cannula

may need to be put in so that your child can complete their prescribed course of treatment (see contact numbers below).

If you are returning for your child's antibiotics, ask the nurse to write the time and date it is due.

Please arrive back on the ward at least 15 minutes before this time.

Date:	Time:	Location:

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Children's Community Nursing Team – Tel: 01772 520710

Or

Ward 8 Assessment Unit – Tel: 01772 523632

Ward 8 B Inpatients – Tel: 01772 523496

Children's day Case – Tel: 01772 524913

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપાકરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے بے ل مدد یک ضرورت ہے تو ییچھیا جس ییہ ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے برا ئے مہر یان پو ییچھہی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبو عة بأ حرف كبير ة و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعده في فهم هذه لمعلومات يُرجى أن. تطلب أخرى بإمكان تو فيير هذه المعلومات

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