

# Central venous access device (CVAD) care

---

Partnering to keep your child safe



**Children's**<sup>SM</sup>  
Healthcare of Atlanta



# Contents

---

- What is a central venous access device (CVAD)?
- What is a CLABSI?
- Preventing a CLABSI:

Hygiene



Keeping a  
clean room



Protecting  
the line



Keeping the  
dressing secure



This is general information only.  
Talk with your child's healthcare team about specific care for your child.



# Your child's CVAD

## What is a central venous access device?

**A central venous access device (also called a CVAD) is a special type of I.V. (intravenous) line.**



It is:

- Placed in the arm, leg, scalp, neck or chest. The end of the line lies near the heart in one of the body's large veins.
- Used to give fluids, blood products and medicines.

There are many types of CVADs. Some include:

- Non-tunneled, non-cuffed, low-flow (PICC)
- Tunneled, non-cuffed, low-flow (CVL)
- Tunneled, cuffed, low-flow (Broviac or Hickman)
- Tunneled, cuffed, high-flow (Permcath)
- Portacath, sometimes called a port or mediport

The names of these CVADs describe how the line is placed in the body, how it is secured to the skin tissue, and how fast fluids can move through the line.

Talk with your child's care team about why your child needs a CVAD and what type of line your child has.



# Your child's CVAD

## What is a CLABSI?

### Central line-associated bloodstream infection

Your child's care team follows guidelines to help prevent your child from getting a CLABSI. Talk with your child's care team for more details.

A central line-associated bloodstream infection or CLABSI:

- Happens when bacteria (a type of germ), or more rarely fungus, grow in your child's CVAD or bloodstream.
- Requires that your child get antibiotics immediately.
- Can be serious and even cause death.

Some risks for getting a CLABSI are:

- Having a CVAD
- Using the CVAD longer than needed rather than switching to oral medicines when it is safe and advised
- Poor hygiene, such as not brushing your teeth and not bathing
- Low white blood cell (WBC) counts
- A weak immune system or problems fighting sickness
- Normal bacteria that live on your child's skin and mouth
- Not following guidelines for CVAD care

This manual explains how you can partner with us to help keep your child safe. For easier reading, we will use the words "he" or "him" when we talk about your child, even if your child is a girl.

# Your child's CVAD



## Hygiene

### Hand hygiene



Keeping your hands and your child's hands clean is one of the most important things you can do while your child is in the hospital.

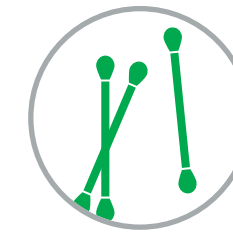
- Say goodbye to germs by:
  - Washing your hands and your child's hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water:
    - When hands look dirty
    - After using the bathroom
    - After helping with bathroom and hygiene needs, like changing diapers
  - Using alcohol-based gel or foam hand cleaner:
    - When you enter and exit your child's room
    - Before feeding your child or eating
- It is OK to ask people who are taking care of your child if they have cleaned their hands.

# Your child's CVAD



## Hygiene

### Mouth care



Talk with the care team about who will complete your child's mouth care in the hospital.

- If your child has teeth:
  - Brush the teeth and gums two times a day: one time in the morning and one time at night.
  - Use a soft-bristle toothbrush, unless advised differently.
  - Flossing is recommended unless immunocompromised.
- If your child does not have teeth:
  - Swab the cheeks, gums and tongue two times a day.
  - Use a clean, moist gauze pad, washcloth, cotton-tipped applicator or Toothette.
- A mother may use her pumped breast milk for her baby's mouth care. Talk with your child's care team for more details.
- If your child cannot eat or drink, you may swab his mouth more often for comfort.
- In some cases, your child may need extra mouth care. This might include:
  - More frequent mouth care if he has a breathing tube (intubated)
  - Special mouth rinses

# Your child's CVAD



## Hygiene

### Bathing



Talk with the care team about who will complete your child's baths while in the hospital.

- If your child is under 2 months of age or if he cannot use a hospital approved antimicrobial bathing product, a regular bath with soap and water every day is advised.
- If your child is over 2 months of age and can use a hospital approved antimicrobial bathing product, a daily bath using an approved product is advised. An antimicrobial bathing product is a special kind of skin cleaner. It helps to reduce germs on the skin that can cause infections. Talk with your child's care team about specific instructions for using the bathing product supplied.
- Your child's care team will supply the items needed for either bath.
- Your child may shower or take baths at home if the line is protected from water. For baths, do not allow the water to rise above the bottom of the protected dressing.
  - The dressing is not waterproof.
  - Protect the line, including injection caps, by covering it with Press'n Seal plastic wrap, saran wrap, AquaGuard, or a plastic bag taped to your child's chest or arm (depending on where the line is placed).

# Your child's CVAD



## Keeping a clean room

### Linens



Your child should have his bed linens changed every day, and more often when dirty.

- Speak up when you would like your child's linens changed or if the linens are not changed every day. Bed linens may include sheets, blankets and pillowcases.
- It is OK to remind staff to wash their hands between handling dirty and clean linens.
- Put dirty bed linens, towels and washcloths in the proper bin or hamper. Do not place linens on the floor.

Keeping a clean room can help prevent the spread of germs. You can help do this by following these guidelines.



# Your child's CVAD

## Keeping a clean room

### Room hygiene

Our environmental services (EVS) team can clean your child's room every day.

- Keep the bedside table and countertops free of clutter.
- Throw away trash.
- Speak up if you have spills, notice medical items on the floor or need extra cleaning by EVS.
- Your cell phone and other personal items carry germs, too. You may use alcohol wipes to clean them.
- Designate clean and dirty areas in your child's room.
- Talk with your child's care team about the difference between clean and dirty areas. Have them show you these areas in your child's room.
- In your child's bed:
  - Treat the space below his waist (the foot of the bed) as dirty. Only put dirty items here.
  - Treat the space above his waist (the head of the bed) as clean. Only put clean items here.
- Keep dirty items separate from clean items.
  - Keep dirty clothes and linens off the floor.
  - Place dirty items, like diapers or dirty dressings, in areas assigned as dirty—this might include the diaper scale, the bathroom or a certain place on the bedside cart.
- Ask your child's care team to explain when you should wear gloves to handle dirty items.
- Always wash your hands after handling dirty items. It is OK to remind staff to wash their hands after handling dirty items, too.

Keeping a clean room can help prevent the spread of germs. You can help do this by following these guidelines.



# Your child's CVAD

## Keeping a clean room

### Food storage



The following food guidelines will help keep your child's room clean:

- Throw away food and drinks in a timely manner. Talk with your child's care team about what is timely for your child.
- Keep fresh fruit at the bedside for no more than 24 hours.
- Store nonperishable food items, like canned goods, away from areas the care team may use to provide care for your child.
- Place perishable food items (foods that spoil or go bad) in the family refrigerator, if there is one. Label these items with your child's name and the date. If your child's unit does not have a family refrigerator, ask your child's care team where to put these items.

Keeping a clean room can help prevent the spread of germs. You can help do this by following these guidelines.

# Your child's CVAD



## Protecting the line

### What does the care team do to help prevent infections in my child's CVAD?



#### To provide routine care of your child's CVAD, the care team:

- Cleans their hands with soap and water or uses alcohol-based gel or foam hand cleaner.
- Wears gloves when handling the CVAD.
- Cleans the injection cap before using the line.
- Ensures all hygiene tasks are done as advised.

# Your child's CVAD



## Protecting the line

### How can I help protect the CVAD from infection?



#### We invite you to be our partner in your child's care. You can help when you:

- Clean your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based gel or foam hand cleaner.
- Remind everyone to clean their hands before entering your child's room. This includes visitors, doctors, nurses and other staff.
- Speak up if someone is not properly caring for your child's CVAD.
- Make sure your child completes all hygiene tasks:
  - Bathing daily with hospital-approved antimicrobial bathing product, unless otherwise advised.
  - Completing mouth care two times a day.
  - Keeping the bedside table free of clutter.
- Prevent your child from putting the CVAD tubing in his mouth.
- Keep his CVAD tubing out of dirty areas, like bath water or his diaper.
- When changing your child's diaper:
  - Place him on a nonabsorbent pad at the end of the crib or bed to keep the linens clean.
  - Place dirty diapers in a designated area, like on the diaper scale or in the bathroom. This helps to prevent the spread of germs. Ask your child's care team if you are not sure where to place dirty diapers.
  - Always wash your hands with soap and water after changing his diaper.



# Your child's CVAD

## Protecting the line



# Your child's CVAD

## Protecting the line

### How can I help protect the CVAD from breaking?



#### Be careful around your child's CVAD.

- If used, keep anchoring devices, like Statlocks or Griplocks, in place at all times. This helps to secure the line.
- Do not let your child play with the CVAD, injection caps or tubing.
- Do not let your child put the CVAD, injection caps or tubing in his mouth or nose.
- Avoid pulling or stretching the tubing.
- Be careful not to get tubing stuck on anything when getting your child out of the crib or bed.

### What do I do if the line breaks at home?



#### Take the following steps in the event of a CVAD break.

- If the line breaks, blood will most often flow back out of the line. If this happens, stop the blood flow right away by clamping the line.
  - If the clamp is still on the line, close it between the hole or break and your child to stop the blood flow.
  - If the clamp is not on the line, fold the line over on itself and pinch it with your fingers. Use a rubber band, a piece of string or some tape to hold the line closed tightly.
  - If you were given clamps, use these to clamp the line between the hole or break and your child.
- Wrap the broken end of the line in gauze. If sterile gauze is available, please use it. If not, use nonsterile gauze or similar material to wrap the end of the line.
- Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away. **This is a medical emergency.**





# Your child's CVAD

## Keeping the dressing secure

### Why does the CVAD have a secure (occlusive) dressing?



It is important that the dressing is always secure.

- A CVAD dressing protects the line and insertion site from germs that can make your child sick. The insertion site is where the line enters the body through the skin.
- Let the care team know right away if the dressing is not secure, or non-occlusive. The dressing should be changed immediately.

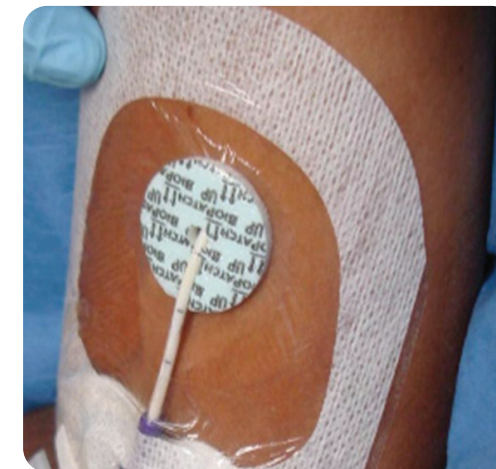


# Your child's CVAD

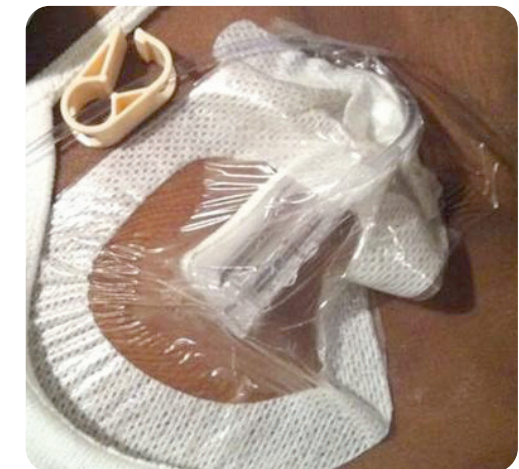
## Keeping the dressing secure

### What is a non-occlusive dressing?

Secure (occlusive)



Not secure (non-occlusive)



A dressing is non-occlusive, or not secure, when the edges are coming up or the dressing is not sticking to the skin. This includes:

- When the whole border edge is lifted or detached from the skin, even if the dressing is still secure around the insertion site
- One or more raised sides, even if the dressing is still secure around the insertion site
- An opening from the edge of the dressing to the insertion site



# Your child's CVAD

## Keeping the dressing secure

Can the dressing be reinforced with tape when it is no longer secure?



A CVAD dressing should never be reinforced when it is no longer secure.

- Once a dressing is not secure, the line is at risk for being exposed to more germs.
- Do not add tape to the dressing or allow others to do so.
- It is OK to speak up when someone adds tape to a dressing that is not secure. Ask the care team to change the dressing instead.



# Your child's CVAD

## Keeping the dressing secure

When does the dressing need to be changed?



Follow these guidelines to protect your child's CVAD.

- If the dressing is not secure, it needs to be changed right away to protect the line from germs.
- If the dressing has an antimicrobial patch for further protection from germs, it needs to be changed every seven days and when wet, dirty or loose.
  - Some areas have scheduled days to perform dressing changes. Please talk with the care team about the schedule in your area.
- If the CVAD has a different dressing type, it may be changed more often.
- If your child has a CVAD called a Neo-PICC, the dressing only needs to be changed when wet, dirty or loose.







**Children's**<sup>SM</sup>  
Healthcare of Atlanta

[choa.org](http://choa.org)