

## Home-Based Hospital Care IV Catheter Line

This *Health Facts for You* will tell you how to care for your IV catheter line at home.

### Keeping the IV Line Dry

Your IV line must **not** be submerged under water. When showering, keep the IV line dry. You must cover the entire dressing including the end of the IV line. If you have an IV pump, **do not get it wet or take it in the shower with you.**

### Covering Your IV Catheter Line

To cover your IV line for showering, you can use:

- Plastic wrap (many patients like Glad Press 'n Seal™)
- Plastic bag (Ziplox® and bread bags work well)

### If you use plastic wrap:

- **Arm:** wrap piece of plastic wrap around the arm covering all areas of your line and dressing making sure the plastic overlaps itself. Secure the edges with plastic tape.
- **Chest:** cut a square of plastic wrap and place it over your line making sure to cover all the areas of your line and dressing. Secure the edges with plastic tape.

### If you use a plastic bag:

- **Arm:** cut the end off of a plastic bag. Slide the bag over your arm so that all areas of your line and dressing are covered.
- **Chest:** cut a square from the plastic bag and place it over your line making sure to cover all the areas of your line and dressing. Secure the edges with plastic tape.

### Safety Tips

- **Do not** use a scissors, pins, or other sharp objects on or around the IV line.
- **Do not** allow pets to chew on your IV line or tubing.
- **Do not** use antibiotic ointment on or around the IV line.
- **Do not** push the IV line back in if it starts to come out.

### What to Do If Your Line Breaks

Follow these steps if your IV line breaks:

1. Pinch it off between the break and where it is inserted to stop bleeding and prevent air from getting into the bloodstream.
2. Use the blue clamp provided and make sure it's locked down.
3. Call us right away.

### When to Call

Call if you have questions about how to cover your IV line for showering or if your IV line breaks.

### Who to Call

Call your Home-Based Hospital Care RN or ask to speak to a nurse.

Home-Based Hospital Care  
**608-265-5400**

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 2/2024 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#8338.