

Your Midline Intravascular Catheter

What is a Midline Catheter?

A Midline Catheter is a thin, flexible tube inserted into a vein in your arm. The catheter is 8-10 centimeters long and can stay in your arm for up to 29 days. A Midline Catheter allows you to get IV (intravenous) medicines and have blood samples drawn. Your Midline will be placed by a trained nurse.

Dressing or Bandage

Your Midline Catheter must have a dressing that covers the place where it goes into your arm. The dressing may be a clear dressing or gauze and tape. Under the dressing, an antimicrobial gel square surrounds the catheter to help prevent infection. The catheter is kept in place with a device called a StatLock that secures it in your arm. Your nurse will change the dressing every 7 days or anytime the dressing is wet, soiled or loose.

Showering

Your Midline Catheter dressing must be sealed with a waterproof cover when you shower. Tell your nurse right away if the dressing has gotten wet or becomes loose after your shower.

Blood Draws

Your nurse may use your Midline Catheter to obtain blood samples for testing. Some tests may not be able to be obtained from the Midline Catheter and will require a needle stick from another vein.

Remember

Problems are rare, but can occur. Let your nurse or provider know right away if:

- You see blood or other drainage from the place where the catheter comes out of your arm.
- You have redness or swelling on the arm with the Midline Catheter
- You have pain in the arm, shoulder or neck on the side with the Midline Catheter

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 © 5/2019 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7831