

When will the cannula be removed?

A trained member of staff will remove your cannula:

- when your procedure or treatment has finished.
- if the cannula is not being used and there is no future plan to use it.
- if the skin around the insertion site is red or sore.
- if the cannula has dislodged or is leaking.
- If the cannula has been in place for >72hrs
- before you are discharged from hospital (unless IV treatment is planned to continue at home).



If you have any questions about the procedure, your treatment or cannula care, please ask the nurse or doctor looking after you. You may be given further information or contact details from the area where you are being treated.

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Peripheral intravenous (IV) cannula



This leaflet provides information about having a peripheral intravenous (IV) cannula inserted. The procedure will be performed by a trained member of staff, such as a Doctor or Nurse. The staff member will fully explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have. They will also ask for your consent prior to performing the procedure.

What is a cannula?

A cannula is a small hollow flexible plastic tube, which is inserted into a vein using the tip of a fine safety needle. Cannulas are usually inserted into the back of the hand or lower arm.

Why do I need a cannula?

You may have been prescribed medication, fluids, blood products which need to be administered intravenously (directly into your blood stream).

Short term medications for diagnostic tests where a dye or other substance need to be intravenously administered or you require an anesthetic.

Long term you may require several days of intravenous medications i.e. Antibiotics for an infection.

Preparing for the procedure

Your veins will be examined in order to locate the most suitable vein for your treatment. A tourniquet will be applied to your upper arm, this will enable your veins to become more visible.

The procedure

The area to where the cannula is to be inserted will be fully cleaned with a solution containing both alcohol and chlorhexidine 2%.

Once the cannula has been inserted the tourniquet will be released and the safety needle will be removed.

The cannula tube will remain within your vein and the external mechanism will be secured to your skin using a clear film dressing. Your cannula will have a bung or extension tubing attached to allow the staff to administer your treatment.

You may feel some pain and discomfort whilst the cannula is being sited, but once the procedure has been completed the pain will cease. If the pain or discomfort is too great for you tolerate you must inform the member of staff performing the procedure.

Before cannulation staff will:

- wash their hands.
- wear an apron and gloves.
- clean your skin with a disinfectant wipe and allow to air dry.
- apply a sterile dressing to keep the cannula in place and add a date and time sticker to the clear part of your dressing.
- check that the cannula is working by flushing the cannula with saline fluid after insertion. This fluid may feel cool when it goes in, but should not be pain

At every access staff will:

- wash their hands.
- wear an apron and gloves.
- clean the bung or port cap with a disinfectant wipe and allow to air dry.
- check that the cannula is working by flushing the cannula with saline fluid before and after using your cannula
- check your cannula site and the dressing regularly and record and act on any changes.

How the staff will take care of your cannula

The member of staff who inserts the cannula or gives your treatment will take care to help prevent any infection by following an aseptic procedure. They will also inspect the site at least twice a day to check that it is healthy and can still be used

How you can take care of your cannula

Keep your dressing clean and dry and do not touch it. Try not to knock the cannula, particularly when dressing and undressing, to avoid this wear loose fitting clothing or short sleeved tops. Wear watches and other jewellery on the opposite arm or hand. Do not dip the cannula in water or allow it to become wet. Before washing and showering please ask a member of staff for a waterproof cover. Please tell a member of staff if you have concerns about your cannula and immediately if:

- you feel pain, notice redness, bleeding, fluid leakage or swelling of or around the cannula site.
- you feel hot, cold or shivery.
- your fluid bag or bottle is empty.
- the cannula injection cap (port) is open.
- your cannula dressing is wet, dirty or loose.
- your cannula has dislodged (moved).
- your cannula is difficult or painful to flush.