

Hemodialysis Central Venous Catheter: Emergency Care

What is a hemodialysis catheter?

A hemodialysis catheter is a type of central venous catheter (CVC). A CVC or central line is like a permanent IV. This tube goes under the skin in a child's chest and into the large blood vessel that leads to the heart. A CVC puts a child at an increased risk of getting an infection.

What can you do to lower the risk of complications?

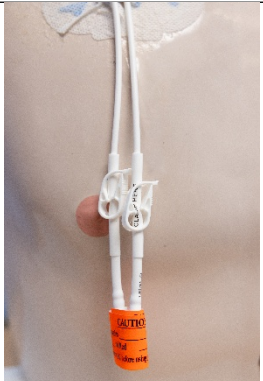
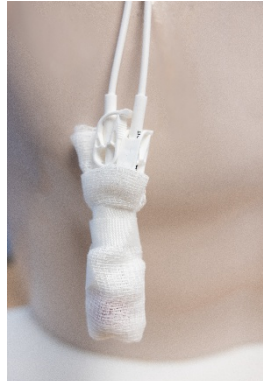
- Clean your hands and put on clean gloves every time you touch the CVC or handle supplies. This is important to help prevent infection.
- Do not bend, poke, or pinch the catheter.
- Do not remove the caps or dressing from the CVC.
- Do not let anyone touch the CVC unless they are trained on how to use it.
- Do not put anything into the catheter.
- It's important for your CVC dressing to stay clean and dry.
 - Do not swim
 - Try to minimize sweating.
 - Always cover the line with plastic wrap such as Aquaguard® or Glad Press'N Seal® for baths, showers, or when you're around water.
- Do not use sharp objects such as knives or scissors near the CVC.
- Avoid having pets near the CVC to avoid it getting pulled out.

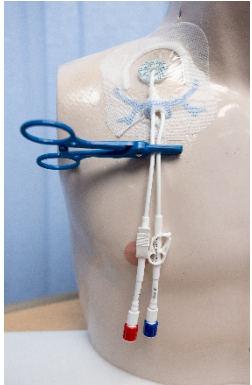
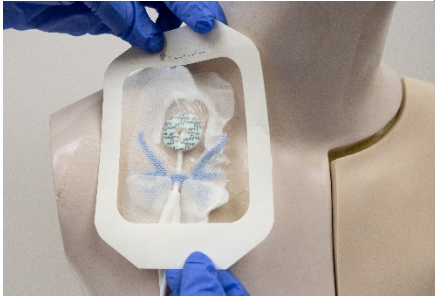
Always keep an emergency kit with the following items:

- Clean gloves
- Clear dressings (small and large)
- Blue clamps
- Masks
- Gauze
- Tape



What to do in case of an emergency:

Emergency	How to respond	
Fever above 100.4 °F (38 °C)	Call your dialysis doctor or go to the Emergency Department right away.	
Pain, redness, or drainage at the catheter	Call your dialysis doctor or go to the Emergency Department right away.	
Sudden pain in the neck, chest, or shoulder or trouble breathing	- Make sure the CVC is clamped. - Lie on your left side with your head down. Stay in this position while your caregiver calls 911.	
Accidental removal of the CVC from the chest	- Hold pressure to the site with a sterile gauze and put a sterile dressing over it. - Go to the emergency room right away or call 911.	
Accidental removal of injection cap	- Make sure the catheter is clamped. - Take a sterile gauze from your emergency kit and tightly wrap the end of the open catheter in the gauze. Secure with tape. - Call your dialysis care team and go to the closest Emergency Department.	

Emergency	How to respond
Leaking from the catheter	• Clamp the line above the leak using the blue clamp. • Wrap gauze around the catheter. • Call your dialysis care team and go to the closest emergency department. 
Dressing lifting on one side	• Reinforce the dressing by putting a clear dressing on the side that is lifted. • Tell your dialysis nurse so they can change the dressing at your next visit. 
Dressing is lifting on more than one side or is completely off	• Put a mask on and with clean hands and gloves, place a clear dressing over the exit site. • If dressing is only partially off, do not remove it the rest of the way. Place clear dressing over the top. • Go to the closest Children's Hospital Colorado facility for a new dressing. 



**For questions or concerns, please call the Kidney Center at 720-777-2875
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After hours, please call 720-777-0007.**