



TUNNELED CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETERS
Patient Information Guide

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INTRODUCTION

Your clinician requested that a Medcomp[®] Central Venous Catheter (CVC) be inserted in order for you to conveniently receive the IV therapy that you need. This *Patient Information Guide* will provide general information about your catheter. This booklet is only a guide. Any questions you have after reading it should be directed to your clinician (doctor or nurse).

WHAT IS A TUNNELED CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER?

The catheter consists of a small, hollow tube (lumen) that is inserted into a blood vessel in your neck or chest. The catheter allows medications, nutritional fluids, and blood products to be delivered directly into your bloodstream. The catheter may be left in for various time periods, depending on the type of therapy you require.





HOW IS THE TUNNELED CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER INSERTED?

The catheter will be inserted by a clinician using sterile technique. This means that they will take precautions to prevent germs from entering your body. Similar precautions should be taken for every catheter related procedure. The clinician may wear a gown, mask, eye protection, and gloves for the insertion procedure.

The catheter will be inserted into a vein in your neck or chest, with the cuff just under the insertion site to increase stability and decrease the risk of infection. You may feel slight discomfort from the needle during the insertion, but no sensation should be felt while the catheter is being threaded into the vein. An x-ray should be taken after the insertion to make sure the catheter is positioned correctly.



CATHETER CARE & MAINTENANCE

After the catheter is inserted, a small portion will remain outside of the body. A protective dressing will be placed over the insertion site to keep the area clean and prevent germs from entering your body. The catheter will be held in place and secured using an anchoring device known as a Statlock®. This is a piece of adhesive that is placed on your skin and the catheter is snapped into place.

Depending on your situation and the type of therapy you will require, you or a family member may be trained to care for your catheter. Be sure to follow the instructions given to you by the clinician.



DRESSING CHANGE

The area around the insertion site should be kept as clean as possible to prevent infection. Your clinician will tell you how often the dressing should be changed and how to change it. Always wash your hands with an antimicrobial soap before handling the catheter or touching the area around the insertion site. Inspect the insertion site for signs of infection (redness, swelling, drainage, or tenderness).

CAUTION: Do not use scissors to remove the dressing, to avoid accidentally cutting the catheter.

FLUSHING & LOCKING THE CATHETER

Your catheter will need to be flushed with saline and filled with a locking solution to prevent clots from forming in the lumen. Your clinician will determine how often the catheter should be flushed, who will flush it, and the appropriate solution to use. If you or a family member are flushing the catheter, follow the instructions provided by your clinician.



ADDITIONAL NOTES



QUESTIONS & TOPICS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR CLINICIAN

▶ DRESSING CHANGE

Who should change my dressing?

How often should my dressing be changed?

What are the steps to follow to change my dressing?

▶ FLUSHING & LOCKING THE CATHETER

Who should flush/lock my catheter?

How often should my catheter be flushed/locked?
With what solution?

What are the steps to follow to flush/lock my catheter?

▶ ACTIVITIES

Are there any limits to my activities?

May I shower/bathe/swim while I have my catheter?

▶ COMPLICATIONS

Who should I call if I have any problems with my catheter?

What problems should I call for?

▶ CATHETER COMPLICATIONS

PROBLEM	SIGNS/SYMPTOMS
INFECTION	Redness, swelling, warmth, drainage at insertion site. Fever and/or chills.
LEAKING OR BLEEDING FROM CATHETER	Break in the catheter or injection cap comes off.
CHANGED/CATHETER DISLODGED	Swishing sound in ear while medication is given. Pain during infusion.
CLOTTED/KINKED CATHETER	Unable to inject solutions/medications. Resistance is felt when infusing solutions/medications.
PHLEBITIS (Vein Inflammation)	Redness, pain, swelling at the insertion site.
AIR EMBOLISM (Air In Bloodstream)	Shortness of breath, coughing, chest pain or loss of consciousness.

ACTION

PREVENTION

Call your clinician IMMEDIATELY.

Wash hands before any procedure and use sterile technique. Keep dressing over insertion site clean & dry.

Carefully fold catheter over below the leaking area and tape securely. Replace cap. **Call your clinician IMMEDIATELY.**

Keep catheter secured with dressing/Statlock. **DO NOT** use scissors near or pull on catheter.

Call your clinician IMMEDIATELY.
Do not inject anything into catheter.

Keep catheter secured with dressing/Statlock. **DO NOT** pull on catheter. Inject solutions into catheter slowly.

Call your clinician IMMEDIATELY.
Stop infusion. Do not force injection. Do not inject anything into catheter.

Flush catheter well before and after use. Fill catheter completely with locking solution.

Call your clinician IMMEDIATELY.
Apply warm compresses. Elevate arm.

Infuse/inject medications & fluids slowly.

CALL 911. Clamp catheter. Lie on your left side with your head down.

Always secure connections. Remove all air from tubing & syringes before injection. Always clamp catheter before removing the cap.

COMMONLY USED TERMS

CATHETER A soft, hollow tube that is inserted into the body.

CATHETER HUB The external portion of the catheter where the injection cap, IV tubing, and syringes are attached.

DRESSING A sterile, protective covering placed to keep an area clean.

EXIT SITE The place where the catheter comes out of your body.

EXTENSION SET Additional tubing that can be attached to the catheter hub.

LOCKING SOLUTION A solution used to prevent blood from clotting inside the catheter.

INJECTION CAP A device placed on the catheter hub to protect the hub and prevent blood from coming out of the catheter.

INSERTION SITE The place where the catheter goes into your body.

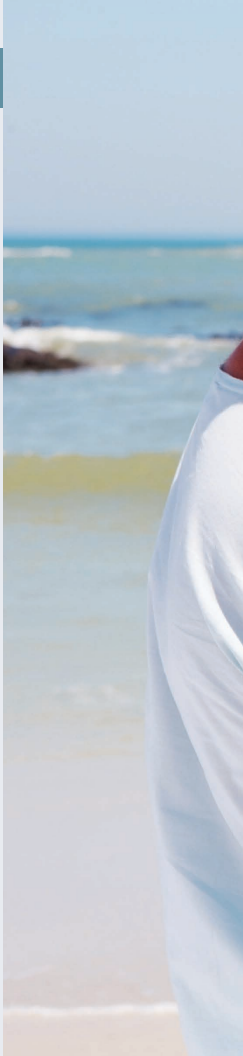
INTRAVENOUS (IV) THERAPY The administration of medications and fluids through the veins.

LUMEN The space inside the catheter.

SALINE A salt solution used to clear the catheter lumen after use (for example, infusion of medications).

STATLOCK® An anchoring system used to secure a catheter to the skin.

TEGADERM™ A transparent sterile dressing.





MEDCOMP® CATHETER INFORMATION

Patient's Name

Clinician

(_____) _____ - _____
Clinician's Phone #

Home Health Care Agency

(_____) _____ - _____
Agency Phone #

Agency Nurse

Catheter Name/Product Code

Lot Number

_____ / _____ / _____ _____
Date of Insertion Catheter Length

Tip Location



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