

Useful information

Community IV team:
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Community nurse team:
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Community Intravenous Therapy

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format
please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید،
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formie,
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتيسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

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General information

The community intravenous therapy team delivers services in St Helens and Knowsley. The service operates seven days a week, 7am -10pm including bank holidays.

The team consists of intravenous therapy (IV) nurses who work collaboratively with community nurses. Together they provide treatment to patients within their own home, or in a community clinic.

Depending upon circumstances, some patients may not need to be admitted to hospital as treatment can be provided at home. This will involve a nurse visiting your home, to give the treatment you need at the required times. Written and verbal information, together with contact numbers, will be given to you on the first visit.

Your GP or Community Matron may be able to refer you to the service.

Advantages of home IV therapy

- You can be treated at home. If this is not appropriate, you can have an appointment in a local community clinic.
- Your independence can be maintained.
- There is no travelling time or expense.
- A nurse will review you at each visit.
- You will be reviewed by the hospital or GP practice at specified times.

We appreciate that some patients need to continue to work whilst receiving treatment. We will support you in this by being as flexible as possible. If there are any concerns during your treatment, the referring team or emergency services will be contacted as appropriate.

Risks

There are a number of risks associated with having iv treatment, which will be explained to you at the initial visit. The information will depend upon the type of treatment you are receiving. Some general symptoms include pain, inflammation, redness, heat, fever, sweats, chills, raised temperature and feeling generally unwell.

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) lines can occasionally snap. In some cases this can be repaired by the iv team. If your line should snap when the nurse is not present, you should clamp the end with a clothes peg or stick it down to your arm to prevent it from entering your blood stream.

If you think your are experiencing any of the above symptoms / risks, immediately contact the community IV service during operational hours (7am-10pm). Outside of the hours please attend your nearest Emergency Department.

Thrombosis (blood clots)

Occasionally your device can become blocked. If you notice any unusual swelling or discolouration in your neck, arm or hand on the side that your device is placed, please contact the nurse on the number given to you or the number on the back of this booklet. Sometimes the vein in which the line is placed in can also become blocked and if this occurs, you will need to attend hospital to be checked.

Reactions

Reactions to medications are rare. Most commonly they are related to the first few doses given. They can be classed into three main groups:

- Mild e.g. headaches, chills, fevers, nausea, vomiting, joint or back pain and light headedness/dizziness.
- Moderate e.g. chest pain, wheezing, itching or nettle rash.
- Severe e.g. tightness of the throat, severe headaches or shaking, severe dizziness or fainting, severe breathlessness/wheezing, collapse, sensation of pressure.

Please inform the nurse immediately if you experience any of the severe reactions.

How does the medication get into my vein?

There are a number of different devices that are suitable for community iv therapy. The type of device that you have inserted will depend upon a number of factors:

- The length of time your treatment is for.
- The type of treatment you are having.
- Your lifestyle.

Medication at home

When you are sent home from hospital, your medications will be sent home with you. It is your responsibility to collect your medication and any further supplies that you require. However, if you were referred to the service by your GP, medication will be supplied from a community pharmacy. Your treatment will be given to you as directed by the doctor/team in charge of your care. This can be once, twice or three times a day.

If you are receiving twice or three times daily medications your appointment times will be fixed. However, if you are on once a day medication, we will either give it to you in the morning or the afternoon depending upon how many patients are being treated. St Helens and Knowsley patients can enquire about their appointment by ringing 01744 626702.

Consent

Now that you have been given and read this information leaflet, you will be able to ask questions and discuss all aspects of your treatment with your nurse. Following this discussion you will be asked give consent for treatment. We will also, when appropriate, share any relevant and necessary information with other healthcare workers that are involved in your care.

Frequently asked questions

Can I bathe or shower?

You can still bathe or shower with a device in place, but it needs to remain clean and dry. Your doctor can prescribe a waterproof cover to stop the device getting wet.

Can I play sports?

Sports which involve vigorous exercise are discouraged, as there is a risk your device may become dislodged. Swimming is not advised with one of these devices in place, as there is a high risk of infection

Can I go to work?

If your doctor feels that you are able to continue working, the IV team will try to be as flexible as possible in order to help you to do this. We can arrange for you to have visits, before or after work if this is suitable.

Who will remove my line when I no longer need it?

It is important that as soon as your line is no longer in use, it is removed. This can be done by members of the hospital staff or the community nurses. Your device should be removed at the earliest opportunity once a decision has been made that you no longer need it.

Peripheral intravenous cannula

A cannula is a small tube placed into a vein by a needle.

Once the cannula is in place, the needle will be removed and a small tube will be left inside the vein.

Your cannula will be checked at every visit and it may need to be changed if a problem occurs. The cannula will be fixed to your skin with a special “see through dressing” and held in place with gauze and a bandage. These will be removed each time the nurse comes to give you your treatment.

It is important that you keep your cannula clean and dry. If your cannula falls out at any time, use something clean and dry to press on the area until it is no longer bleeding.

Peripheral midline catheter

A midline is a short fine hollow tube that is put into one of the large veins in your arm, sometimes above your elbow or in the bend of your elbow. It is put into the vein and is threaded to the tip of your shoulder. It may sometimes be placed using an ultrasound machine. The midline is kept in place using a “see through dressing”. It is important that the dressing is kept clean and dry. You can carry on with normal activities but exercise should be avoided as this may make the midline move. There are some risks associated with having a midline but they are small. The main risks are:

- Infection.
- Blood clots.
- Phlebitis (inflammation of the vein).
- The line can fall out.

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)

A PICC line is also a fine hollow tube that is put into one of the large veins in your arm, sometimes above the elbow and occasionally in the bend of the elbow.

It is put into one of the large veins which leads to your heart. It can stay there for weeks or months.

Following the insertion of the PICC line, you will need to have a chest x-ray to check that the line is in the correct position.

The risks associated with the PICC are the same as midlines. The PICC line is kept in place using a “see through dressing”. It is important that the dressing is kept clean and dry.

There are other types of devices that may have been inserted whilst being treated in hospital such as:

- Skin-tunnelled catheter.
- Totally implanted port.

Potential side effects of devices

Infection

Members of the iv team and other community nurses are trained in all aspects of infection prevention and control. They follow strict guidelines and procedures to maintain high standards of care.

Phlebitis (inflammation of the vein)

This can sometimes occur when a device has been in place for a couple of days. The nurses will check your device at every visit and if this is a problem, they will either remove it or take measures to treat it.

Damaged line

The lines that are put into your vein are quite delicate and may sometimes break or leak.

If you think your are experiencing any of the above side effects, immediately contact the community IV service during operational hours (7am-10pm). Outside of the hours please attend your nearest Emergency Department.