



Care of Your Intravenous Site

Going home with an intravenous catheter

You will be going home with an intravenous (IV) catheter in place. Please follow these care instructions.

For questions, call:

during these hours:

At other times, call the Emergency Room at 206-598-4000.

You had an *intravenous* (IV) catheter inserted into your vein to give you medicines or fluids. You will be going home with the catheter in place.

Since you will need to return on 2 or more days in a row, having an IV catheter means you will not need to have a new one placed for these visits.

Care Instructions

- Keep your IV dry. Cover it with plastic wrap or a plastic bag before you bathe or shower.
- Remove the gauze dressing (but **not** the adhesive dressing) and check your IV site for redness or drainage **if** you:
 - Feel tenderness, warmth, or swelling at the site.
 - Begin to have a fever.

If you have any of these symptoms, call _____ or the Emergency Room at 206-598-4000.

- If your IV comes out, apply firm pressure over the site for at least 5 minutes, or until the bleeding stops. Place a Band-Aid on the site after the bleeding has stopped.
- If your catheter comes apart or breaks off, and you think part of it is still in your vein, apply firm pressure. Place a tight band above the IV site to act as a tourniquet. Call the Emergency Room **right away** at 206-598-4000.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns.

4-South/Special Procedures Unit: 206-598-4670

UW Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER

4-South/Special Procedures Unit
Box 356072
1959 N.E. Pacific St. Seattle, WA 98195
206-598-4670