

Going Home After Central Line Removal



This handout explains how to care for your site after your central line is removed, including dressing care, activity limits, and signs that mean you need to get medical help.

Caring for Your Site

- Keep your dressing on for **at least 24 hours**. Do **NOT** remove it early.
- Keep your dressing dry.
- After 24 hours, you can:
 - Leave the site open to air, or
 - Cover it with a clean bandage if there is a little bit of fluid.
- Do **not** put your site underwater until it is fully healed. This includes baths, hot tubs, and pools.
- Call your care team right away if you have:
 - A fever
 - Redness or warmth around the site
 - A lot of drainage or fluid coming out

Activity Guidelines

- Relax for the rest of the day.
- For 24 hours:
 - Do **not** lift anything heavier than 10 pounds.
 - Do **not** do strenuous activity.
- Do not stretch or pull the skin around your site.

When to Get Medical Help Right Away

Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room **right away** if you have:

- Sudden shortness of breath
- Sudden chest pain
- Swelling in your arm, neck, or face
- Bleeding that does not stop after 10 minutes of holding the site with firm pressure

Questions?

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

