

Care of your Cannula for Intravenous Antibiotics

What is a cannula?

A cannula is a small tube that is inserted into a vein in your arm in order to deliver medical treatments. The tube is covered with a see-through dressing which will keep the cannula in place. The tube can stay in place for up to a week. It will be checked every day by the nurse.

Why do I need a cannula?

You have been seen by your General Practitioner or have been discharged from hospital and prescribed treatment that is needed to be given via a cannula.

Benefits of having your medicine via the cannula

- To enable the medication to be given without frequent injections
- To support early discharge from hospital
- To enable you to have treatment at home

Caring for your cannula

Please contact the community nursing team or out of hours service if the following occurs:

- If the site of the cannula becomes red, painful or swollen
- If you develop any signs of infection such as feeling hot or shivery
- If you do dislodge the cannula, do not attempt to reinsert. Apply pressure over the site for 3 minutes and apply a waterproof plaster to site. Keep the cannula in a bag and contact the community nursing team so that they can look at it to make sure it is intact. The cannula does not have a sharp needle but keep device away from children and animals

On-going review of your care

The nursing team will review the site of the cannula each time you are reviewed or given treatment by the community nursing team/community night service.

Take care not to: Get dressing wet or knock cannula site when undressing.

Contact Details

For any concerns or questions please contact your community nursing team- The **contact details are on your home health care records** or for out of hours 0151 514 2222 - option 5.

If the treatment has been commenced in hospital your own doctor will be informed of your treatment via a discharge letter.

Originator: Community Nursing Service