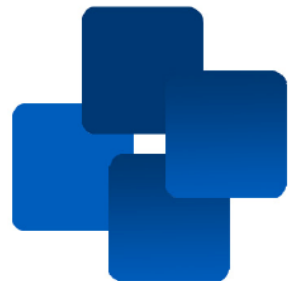


Patient Information

Going Home with a Cannula

Children's Services



Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you manage a child with a cannula.

Why is a cannula necessary?

Your child has been assessed by a doctor and needs to be treated with intravenous antibiotics. This means that their medicine will be given directly into a vein. There is no need for your child to stay in hospital, but he/she will need to return each time the medicine is due.

What is a cannula?

The cannula is a flexible tube placed in a vein in your child's hand or the inside of their elbow. The cannula needs to be protected from bending or kinking in the vein.

How is the cannula fitted?

Your child's hand or elbow has been supported with a splint and then bandaged. This is to protect the cannula from falling out and to reduce the risk of it getting knocked.

The cannula could still get knocked or dislodged. Please therefore:

- Do not allow it to get wet.
- Take care when removing your child's clothing.
- Ensure that your child is supervised when playing.

If the cannula does come out, use a clean tissue or cloth to apply firm pressure for about three minutes, as it may bleed a little. When any bleeding stops, cover the site with a small plaster.

Please contact the Children's Accident and Emergency to inform them so that arrangements can be made for another cannula to be put in and for your child to complete their prescribed course of treatment.

Telephone numbers are on the back of this leaflet.

Medication

The medication that your child has been prescribed is called:

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Please return on at

for the next dose of medicine to be given.

If you have any concerns please contact

Please use this space to note down any questions you may wish to ask:

Further information

NHS 111

☎ 111

or Contact your GP

NHS website - www.nhs.uk

Useful Telephone Numbers

Bluebell Ward, Lister Hospital
Stevenage

☎ 01438 284008

Children's Emergency Department
Lister Hospital

☎ 01438 284333

Urgent Care Centre, New QEII
Welwyn Garden City

☎ 01707 247549

Community Children's Nursing Team

☎ 01438 288370