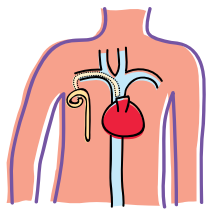
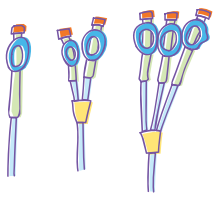
Know Your Central Line!

What is it?

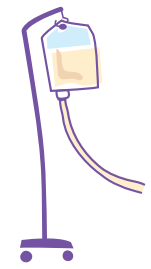
- A tube inserted through the skin into a vein near the heart
- It can have one, two or three ends known as lumens or 'wigglies'





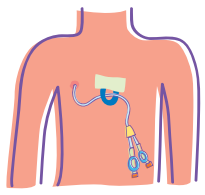
What is it used for?

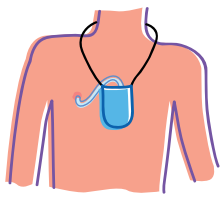
- Blood tests
- Blood product transfusion
- Medicines
- Fluids
- Intravenous feeding



Keeping the line safe:

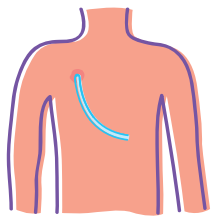
- The line will be stitched in place but prevent pulling by:
- – looping the line through a wiggly bed, or...
- – putting the line in a tie bag, hung round the neck, or...
- – wearing a vest/crop top
- Avoid contact sports/rough games
- ***Have your line flushed every week to keep it working inside – Nurses and trained parents or carers only!***

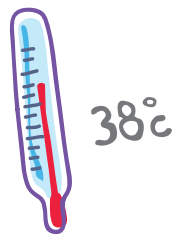




Signs of infection:

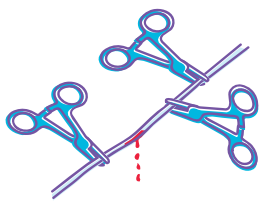
- Exit site becomes red, swollen, sore, discharges fluid
- Redness along the skin above your line
- You feel unwell or develop a high temperature, especially after the line has been flushed
- ***Contact the ward or clinic if you notice any of the above***

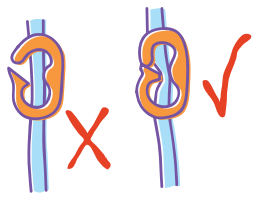




What to do if?

- The line falls out – this is rare but if it does happen, apply pressure to the exit site – it shouldn't bleed much. Go to the hospital with your line so that they can check its all there
- The line gets damaged/splits – also rare, clamp either side of the damaged area with the blue clamps
- The attached clamp is undone – clamp immediately – this is more common – check regularly to make sure this hasn't happened – The line may need to be flushed
- ***If any of the above occur – contact the ward as all need immediate attention***





Keeping the line clean:

- Important to prevent infection
- Ask your nurse about dressings
- Daily shower/bath – if bathing don't dunk wigglies, showering is the prefered option
- Clean site with tap water – dry gently with your own clean towel
- Don't go swimming

Nurse Name: .....

Phone Number: .....

Additional Information: .....

.....

Ask the nurses for more information if needed

Based on the original idea of Nurse Bethen Gough from Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust

PIVA Preventing Infections in Vascular Access

Infection Control Nurses Association

Developed in collaboration with 3M Health Care

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