

Consumer information (for child)

# Care of your child's intravenous cannula (IV drip)

## What is an IV (intravenous) drip?

An IV drip is a small flexible tube that is inserted into a vein in your arm or hand. It may also be called a peripheral intravenous catheter (PIVC), IV, or cannula. It is used to administer fluids and medications.



The IV drip is taped to the skin and covered with a clear dressing to keep it secured, clean and dry. Let your healthcare worker know if you have any allergies, such as to tapes and dressings.

A bandage may also be applied.

A board may also be used as a splint to help stop hand or arm movement to prevent movement of the IV drip.

## Looking after your child's IV drip

Your healthcare worker will care for your child's IV drip. They will check the IV drip at least once each shift and before giving any fluids or medication. They will also check for signs of complications e.g. infection.

- > **Tell your healthcare worker** if you have any concerns about your child's IV drip.
- > **Clean hands** – hands should be cleaned before your child's IV drip is touched; you can partner with your healthcare worker by reminding them to clean their hands.
- > **Keep the IV drip dry** - avoid getting the IV drip wet; ask your healthcare worker for an additional waterproof covering when showering or bathing.
- > **Avoid being disconnected from the IV drip tubing** – unless required as part of your child's healthcare.
- > **Avoid touching, knocking or pulling on your child's IV drip** – avoid the wearing of tight clothing and jewellery.



Please **try not to touch** your child's IV drip, bags of fluid or the IV line – ask your healthcare worker for help.



## Consumer information (for child)

**Please tell your healthcare worker immediately if your child experiences any of the following:**

- > your child feels feverish, has a temperature, feels hot, cold or shivery.
- > there is pain / redness / heat or swelling near where the IV drip enters the skin.
- > you see bleeding or leakage from where the IV drip enters the skin.
- > the IV drip dressing is wet, falling off or is uncomfortable.
- > the IV drip has stopped, the fluid bag is empty, or the drip has fallen out.

### When will your child's IV drip be removed?

- > Your healthcare worker will decide when the IV drip should be removed when treatment is finished.
- > If the IV drip has not been used in the last 24 hours – ask if it is still needed.
- > After the IV drip is removed, the site where it was inserted through your skin should be checked for the next 2-3 days for any signs of infection, i.e. pain, redness, swelling or ooze.
- > Your child's IV drip should be removed before you are discharged from hospital, unless your doctor has ordered for it to stay in.

### Would you like more information?

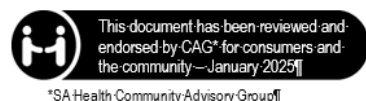
1. Please talk to your healthcare worker about any concerns you have with your child's IV drip.
2. Australian Commission on safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)  
[Management of peripheral intravenous catheters information for consumers](#)

## For more information

**Infection Control Service  
 Communicable Disease Control Branch  
 11 Hindmarsh Square  
 Adelaide SA 5000  
 Telephone: 08 7425 7161  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/hospitalinfections](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/hospitalinfections)**

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