

Consumer information (for child)

Care of your IV drip

What is an IV (intravenous) drip?

An IV drip is a thin sterile **plastic** tube inserted into a vein usually in your arm or hand. It is used to administer fluids and medications. It is also known as a peripheral intravenous cannula.



The IV drip is taped to the skin and covered with a transparent dressing to keep it clean and dry.

A bandage may also be applied.

An arm board may also be used as a splint to prevent damage to the IV drip from limb movement.

Looking of your child's IV drip

Your doctor or nurse will be looking after your child's IV drip. They will monitor the drip at least once each shift and before giving any fluids or medication.

- > **Clean hands** - before anybody touches the IV drip they must clean their hands. You can remind health care workers to clean their hands before they touch your child.
- > **Keep the IV drip dry** - avoid getting the IV drip wet; use an additional waterproof covering when showering. Avoid placing the IV drip under water i.e. in the bath.
- > **Avoid being disconnected from the IV drip tubing** – this may increase the risk of infection.
- > **Protect your child's IV from knocks or pulling** – 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 doctor or nurse for help.

Please tell your doctor or nurse 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.



Consumer information (for adults)

When will your child's IV drip be removed?

- > Your child's doctor or nurse will decide when the IV drip should be replaced or removed.
- > After the drip is removed, the site where it was inserted through your child's 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 their doctor has ordered for it to stay in.

Would you like more information?

We care about your child. Please talk to your nurse or doctor about any concerns associated with your child's IV drip

For more information

Hospital telephone:

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/Hospitalinfections

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This document has been reviewed and endorsed by SOCAG* for consumers and the community – September 2019.

*SA Health Safety and Quality Community Advisory Group



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