

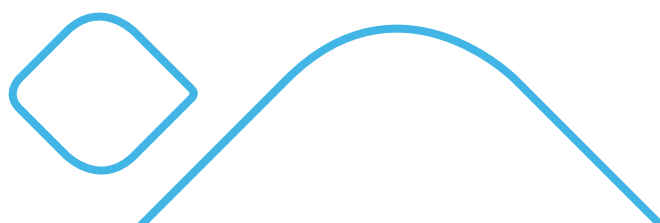
Taking your child home with a cannula

Information for patients, parents and guardians

We have given you this factsheet because your child will have a cannula when they go home. A cannula is a small plastic tube which is put into a vein and taped to the skin. It is used for giving intravenous (IV) medications (medicine given directly into the vein). The most common places for this to be inserted are in the back of your child's hand or in the crease of their elbow, but sometimes other places may need to be used.

How to care for your child's cannula

- Your child's cannula will be covered with a sticky dressing and a bandage. Try to keep this bandage in place, as this protects the cannula from moving and helps it stay clean.
- Do not allow the cannula to get wet, as this will loosen the dressing and the cannula may move or fall out. There is also an increased risk of infection if the cannula becomes wet or soiled. If your child tries to play with their bandage or cannula, you can cover the area with a clean sock if it is on their hand or an extra bandage if it is elsewhere.
- Sometimes the cannula site can be bruised and cause mild pain. If the cannula is continuously hurting your child, please contact your child's ward. The area may be infected or the cannula may have moved.



If the cannula falls out

- If the cannula moves or falls out it may bleed. If this happens, apply pressure with a clean gauze or cotton wool over the area for two minutes or until the bleeding has stopped. You can then cover the area with a plaster.
- If the cannula has fallen out, please contact your child's ward. We will arrange for your child to have a new cannula inserted if they need one. Please let us know the cannula has come out as your child may need to come in at an earlier time for a new cannula to be inserted. The ward is open 24 hours a day.

Allergic reactions

Your child will have had the first dose of their medicine in hospital, so it is extremely unlikely that they will have an allergic reaction at home. However, if your child does develop a rash please let us know so that we can advise you. If your child has facial swelling or difficulty breathing, dial 999 for an ambulance.

Contact us

If you have any concerns about your child's cannula, please contact us:

01225 824421 – main ward

01225 824590 – paediatric assessment unit (PAU)

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG

01225 428331 | www.ruh.nhs.uk

If you would like this leaflet in email form, large print, braille or another language, please contact the Patient Support and Complaints team on 01225 825656.

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