

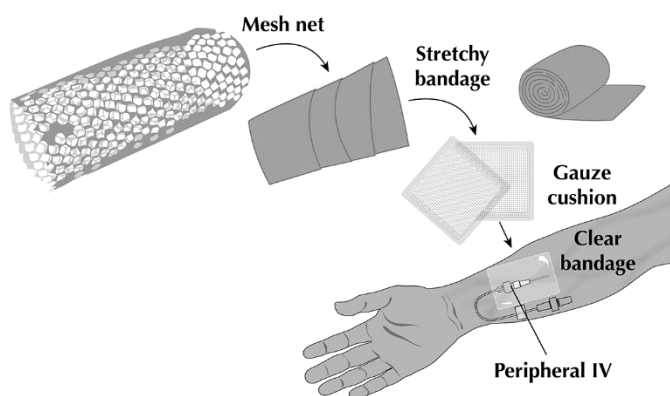
Peripheral IV Care at Home

Your care team has left an IV in place overnight. This way, they do not have to place another one when you come back tomorrow.

What is a peripheral IV?

A peripheral IV is a very thin tube that goes into a vein in your arm or hand. Your care team may also call it a catheter. The IV lets your care team give you medicine and take blood samples.

This factsheet tells you how to take care of the IV while you are at home.



Peripheral IV, bandages, cushion, and mesh net

How do I take care of my IV?

These things hold your IV in place:

- Clear bandage
- Gauze cushion
- Stretchy bandage
- Mesh net

Unless there is a problem, do not move the net, bandages, or cushion.

If the stretchy bandage feels too tight, you can put it on more loosely.

1. Wash your hands.
2. Take the mesh net off your arm.
3. Unwrap the stretchy bandage, but leave the last part that holds the cushion in place. Wrap the bandage again, more loosely.
4. Put the mesh net back on.

Keep the IV dry. Do not swim, bathe, or soak in a hot tub. You may shower.

1. Before you shower, cover the IV area with plastic wrap.
2. Tape the ends of the plastic above and below the IV to keep water out.

Possible Problems and What You Can Do

Very rarely, bleeding can happen after you are home.

If you see blood on the bandage, stay calm. Wash your hands. Take off the mesh net, the stretchy bandage, the cushions, and the clear bandage. Then follow these instructions:

If the IV has come out completely, you may see blood coming from your skin.

1. Press a gauze pad or a cotton ball tightly over the area for 5 minutes. If necessary, you can press with your bare fingers. The bleeding will stop quickly.
2. Cover with an adhesive bandage.
3. Your nurse will put in a new IV when you return to the clinic. Bring the old IV with you.

If the tubing or cap has come off the catheter, you may see blood coming from the end of the tubing.

1. Hold the end of the tubing.
2. Pull the IV straight out of your arm.
3. Press a gauze pad or a cotton ball tightly over the area for 5 minutes. If necessary, you can press with your bare fingers. The bleeding will stop quickly.
4. Cover with an adhesive bandage.
5. Your nurse will put in a new IV when you return to the clinic. Bring the old IV with you.

Call for help if you notice any redness, drainage, or swelling around your IV site.

Your Notes
