Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Care of Intravenous Cannula

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Patient Information

Community React Team

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Introduction

This leaflet will provide you with information on how to care for an intravenous cannula whilst receiving your treatment.

A cannula is a hollow plastic tube designed for insertion into a vein. The tube contains a sharp needle, which guides the cannula into the vein. Once the cannula is in place, the needle is

removed and disposed of safely.

Instructions on the care of the cannula

- Keep the dressing that covers the cannula clean and dry.
- Take care when removing items of clothing so that you do not catch the cannula.
- If there is any pain or swelling around the site of the cannula, inform the Community React Team or the District Nurses Evening and Night Service.

As the cannula is fragile, movement can easily dislodge it. If the cannula becomes dislodged:

- Carefully remove the dressing and immediately apply firm pressure over the site for three to four minutes or until the bleeding has stopped.
- Cover the site with a small sticking plaster.
- Place the cannula in a small plastic bag and put it in a safe place, out of the reach of children, until a nurse visit.

If the bleeding continues for more than 30 minutes or you require any further advice or assistance, please contact one of the following services.

Contact information

If you have any questions or queries, which we have not covered in this leaflet, please contact us:

District Nurses Evening and Night Service

8:30pm to 8am

Telephone: 0300 707 1266

Mobile: 07860 794654

Community React Team

Monday to Sunday: 8am to 8:30pm

Telephone: 0300 707 2112



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