

Patient information

Intravenous IV Access for patients with a Bleeding disorder

Haematology Liverpool

Why do I need Intravenous (IV) Access?

Some of the treatments you may require for your bleeding disorder can only be given intravenously. These treatments are usually reconstituted as per the manufacturer's instructions and given as a slow bolus via different IV access devices. IV bolus is a medical technique that delivers necessary fluid to the body directly through the bloodstream. It differs from regular IV drip in that it's quicker and may offer faster effects. Don't worry how to do this will be demonstrated by a healthcare professional who provides you with training.

If you are admitted with a new diagnosis of a bleeding disorder, and actively bleeding then you will require regular IV medications and blood sampling, so we will organize for a IV access device to be inserted, to ensure we avoid having to use a new needle each time we need to treat you or obtain bloods.

Types of IV Access

- **PICC Line**

A peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC), also called a PICC line, is a long, thin tube that's inserted through a vein in your arm and passed through to the larger veins near your heart. Very rarely, the PICC line may be placed in your leg. These can be used to take bloods and give treatment and will remain in place for the duration required.

- **IV Butterfly**

A winged infusion set, commonly referred to as a "butterfly" or "scalp vein" set, stands as a specialized device designed for venipuncture, serving the dual purpose of accessing superficial veins for intravenous injection or phlebotomy (obtaining blood samples). This cannot remain in place and is used for a one off treatment.

- **Cannula**

A cannula is a thin tube that healthcare professionals insert into a person's body cavity, such as their vein. These flexible tubes go into a vein and are used for blood transfusions, factor replacement medication administration, and fluid delivery. These can stay in place for up to one week and can be used for giving treatment only.

On insertion bloods can be taken, but after it has been used for treatment, it cannot be used for withdrawing blood samples again.

- **Portacath**

A port-a-cath, also known as a port, is an implanted device that allows easy access to a patient's veins. It is surgically inserted completely beneath the skin and consists of two parts: the portal and the catheter (Please refer to Portacath patient information leaflet for further information).

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

Please contact the Haemophilia team on 0151 706 3397 if you have any questions or queries.

Text phone number: 18001 0151 3397

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