



Caring for an intravenous cannula (drip)

Information for patient, clients, residents, and carers



Your drip dressing should be:

- ✓ clean
- ✓ dry
- ✓ secure and not lifting



It's ok to ask - "Why is my drip still in?"

In hospital your drip should be removed within 3 days or as soon as you no longer require it to reduce your risk of infection.

A new drip will be inserted if it is needed.



Your drip should be removed before you leave the hospital.

If your old drip site hurts or if you feel cold, hot or shaky after you go home, make sure you visit your doctor as soon as possible.

These symptoms are important as they can lead to sepsis (blood poisoning) and you can get very sick.

Tell the nurse if:

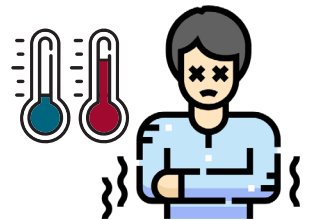


- ✗ your drip is **hurting**
- ✗ your drip **feels hot**
- ✗ your drip is **red, swollen** or **feels sore**



- ✗ your dressing is **loose**

- ✗ you feel **cold, hot** or **shaky**



How to keep your drip dry:

- ask the nurse to wrap your drip before you shower
- try not to touch the drip or pull the tube
- tell the nurse if your **dressing is wet**

