

Balloon Notes

Caring for your child.



Partnering to Keep Your Child Safe: Central Line Care

What should you know about your child's central line?

Preventing a central line infection keeps your child safe!

A blood infection that happens from a central line is called a Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection, or CLABSI for short.

- A CLABSI can happen when germs travel down the central line and enter the blood
- The infection is treated with antibiotics
- Some infections might make your child very sick or might be hard to treat

What is a central line?

A tube placed into a large blood vessel called a vein. It is used to draw blood, give fluids or medicines.

What can you do to partner with us in the care of your child's central line?

1. **Make sure everyone has Clean Hands** - *Clean hands are the best way to keep your child from getting an infection*
 - Everyone must wash hands with soap & water or use hand sanitizer
 - Doctors and nurses must clean hands and put on gloves before touching your child's line
 - Remind family, guests and your child's doctors and nurses if you notice they didn't clean their hands
2. **Help us with the Daily Care** – *Daily care is important to keep infection away from your child's central line*
 - Tell your child's nurse right away if your child's:
 - Line is leaking or gets disconnected (Do **not** reconnect)
 - Central line cover or dressing is loose, wet or looks dirty
 - Central line tubing or dressing gets body fluids like poop, throw up, or mucus on it
 - Central line looks red or hurts
 - Help give your child a bath each day with a special antimicrobial soap called CHG (chlorhexidine gluconate)
 - Remind our staff to always "Scrub the Hub"- *Cleaning the central line cap before use with alcohol or CHG for 15 seconds and letting it dry for 15 seconds helps kill the germs*
 - Make sure everyone, even your child, wears a mask when the central line caps or dressing is changed
3. **Ask your child's doctor How Long your child needs their central line** – *As soon as your child no longer needs their central line, it is important to take it out*
4. **Please Speak Up!** We want you to be our partner and help keep your child safe!

You can also help by learning:

- When your child should get the central line caps or dressing changed next
- About extra covers that protect and keep the central line caps clean