### **Balloon Notes**

### Caring for your child.



# Going Home with Your Child's Port Accessed for Daily Clinic Visits

If your child is coming to the clinic daily for IV chemotherapy or IV medicines, your child may go home with their port accessed and covered with a dressing. This means that your child's port needle stays in at home. This keeps them from having it re-accessed every day for treatment.

### Look at the port and dressing many times a day: morning, afternoon, night and when concerned

- Check that the <u>needle</u> is still in place. Do not let your child do activities that could bend or pull the needle out (contact sports, rough play).
- Check that there is no redness, swelling, bleeding or drainage under the dressing.
- Check that the <u>dressing</u> is sealed completely around the port needle and not peeling up. If the dressing is peeling up a small amount, you may use tape on the edges to keep the dressing on.
- Check that the clamp on the line is closed.
- Check that the clear cap is tight and does not have blood in it.

#### Keep the port and dressing clean and dry at all times.

- Do not get the dressing wet (no showering, tub bathing, or swimming).
- Your child is allowed to take a sponge bath.
- Keep the end of the line taped on the dressing.
- Keep the protective colored swab cap on.

### Do not put anything in the port line. The clinic nurse will flush and heparin lock the port in the clinic.

#### When to Call the Clinic Right Away:

- The skin around the port looks red or swollen
- Your child complains of the port site hurting
- There is blood or drainage coming from the needle site
- The dressing has peeled up along the edges and allowing air to get to the port needle
- The tubing is broken or leaks
- The port needle is accidentally pulled out or bent
- The clear cap is bloody, dirty or has come off
- Fever of 100.4 °F or higher OR Temperature of 96 °F or lower



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#### **CCBD Clinic Phone Number:**

214-456-2382 (Monday-Friday 7:30-4:30 choose triage option)

#### **After Clinic Hours Number:**

214-456-7000 (Main hospital number, ask for the oncology doctor)



