

Child health information factsheet

Taking your child home with a cannula

A cannula is a plastic tube which is put into and stays in the vein and is used for giving medications to your child.

How to care for a cannula

- Keep the bandage in place. This protects the cannula from moving and helps it stay clean
- Keep the cannula dry at all times. If the area becomes wet, the tape holding it securely in place will loosen and the cannula may move or fall out
- If it becomes wet there is also an increased chance of infection
- Small children will sometimes play with their bandage. To help stop them doing this you can cover the area with a clean sock
- If your child complains of the cannula hurting, this may be a sign of infection. Please contact the ward for advice if this happens.

If the cannula falls out

- If the cannula moves or falls out it may bleed. If this happens, apply pressure with a clean dressing over the site for two minutes or until the bleeding has stopped. You can then cover the area with a plaster
- Let the ward know that the cannula has fallen out; you will need to bring your child back to the ward for a new cannula an hour before the next medications are due.

Allergic reactions

Your child will have been having the same medications in hospital, so an allergic reaction is extremely rare. If your child does get a rash please let the ward know so that advice can be given.

If your child becomes unwell at any time or has facial swelling or difficulty breathing, dial 999 for an ambulance.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's cannula, please contact the ward for advice.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact

The paediatric assessment unit (PAU): **023 8079 4628**

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8079 4688 for help.