

Taking care of a Midline peripheral venous catheter



To enable you to receive various treatments, a catheter has been inserted into one of the veins of your arm. Here is how to take care of it to keep it in good condition.



NOTE

Specific information to be noted

Arm circumference when the Midline is inserted:cm

Date of Midline removal : / /

What do I need to do to take care of my catheter?

To keep your catheter in good condition, you'll need to often inject a solution of NaCl 0.9% (sodium chloride) or "normal saline" into it using a syringe.

This is called "irrigating the catheter".

When do I need to irrigate my catheter?

Before AND after it's been used for a treatment.

Why do I need to irrigate my catheter?

- To allow fluids to pass through the catheter without problems.
- To prevent blood from flowing back into the catheter.
- To prevent the catheter from becoming blocked.

What do I need to do BEFORE irrigating my catheter?

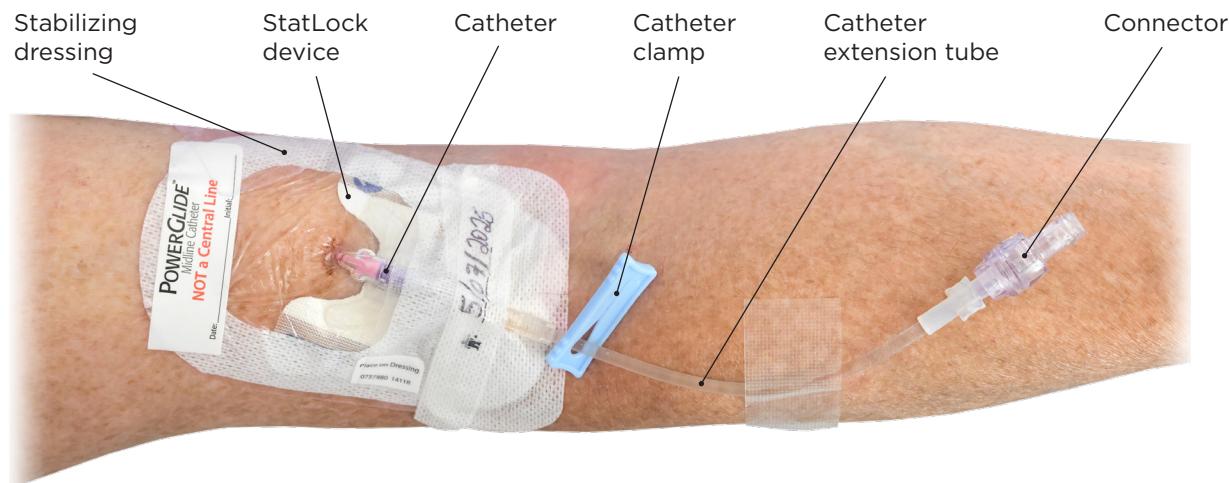
- Remove any jewelry on the arm: rings, bracelets, etc.
- Wash your hands carefully with soap and water.
- With soap and water, wash the surface where you'll be doing the irrigation.

Take out the supplies you'll need:

- a 10-ml syringe pre-loaded with the NaCl 0.9% solution
- several 70% alcohol swabs
- Place the supplies on the clean surface.



What are the steps for irrigating my catheter?



1

WASHING AND DISINFECTING



1 - After removing your jewelry, wash your hands carefully with soap and water.



2 - Clean the connector with an alcohol swab for 15 seconds. Let it dry for 30 seconds, holding it by the base.

Attention! Don't blow on the connector to dry it. Also, don't touch the tip. If that happens, clean it again with another alcohol swab.

2

CONNECTING THE SYRINGE



1 - While still holding the connector base, remove the stopper from the NaCl syringe. Take care that nothing touches the tip of the syringe, so as not to contaminate it. If the syringe is contaminated, discard it and use a new one.



2 - Insert the syringe into the connector and screw it in.

3

IRRIGATION



1 – Open the clamp on your catheter tube.



2 – First, inject 1 millilitre of the NaCl solution by pushing on the syringe plunger. Then slowly pull back on the syringe plunger. You should see a little blood come back up into the catheter. Then inject the rest of the solution 1 millilitre at a time, by pushing on the plunger again. Pause for a few seconds between each millilitre.



3 – Close the clamp at the same time as you're pushing in the final millilitre. This prevents blood from backing up into the catheter.



4 – To remove the syringe, unscrew it while holding the connector by the base. **Attention!** When unscrewing the syringe, be careful not to also unscrew the connector from the extension tube.

What do I do if the NaCl solution doesn't flow through?

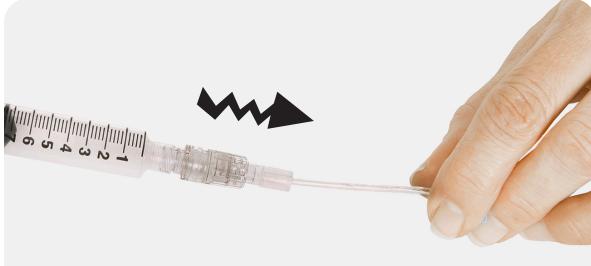
If you have trouble getting the NaCl to flow through:

- Don't apply pressure on the syringe plunger.
- Check that the clamp on the tube is fully open.
- Check that the connector is properly screwed in.

- Try to restart the irrigation by pressing gently on the syringe plunger.

If the solution still won't flow through, remove the syringe by unscrewing it and don't use your catheter any more.

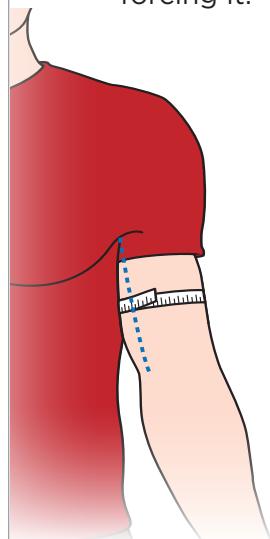
Immediately call your **CLSC nurse** or the **CHUM Patient Health Line**, at **514 890-8086**.



What should I do if no blood backs up into the catheter?

If you don't see any blood backing up after the first millilitre of solution:

- Check that the clamp on the tube is fully open.
- Check that the connector, without the needle, is properly screwed in.
- Try pulling on the syringe plunger, without forcing it.



If there is still no blood backing up, check that:

- Your arm circumference has not increased by more than 2 cm.
- You can irrigate without resistance.

You can then use your catheter safely.

If your arm circumference has increased by more than 2 cm, or if there is any resistance in the irrigation, don't use your catheter. Immediately call your **CLSC nurse** or the **CHUM Patient Health Line** at **514 890-8086**.

What should I do if there is fluid leaking around the catheter insertion point during the irrigation?

Close the tube clamp, remove the syringe by unscrewing it, and don't use your catheter.

Immediately call your **CLSC nurse** or the **CHUM Patient Health Line** at **514 890-8086**.

They will tell you what to do.

What signs should I watch for when irrigating my catheter?

Stop using your catheter and immediately call your **CLSC nurse** or the **CHUM Patient Health Line** at **514 890-8086**, if:

- You have pain or discomfort in your arm.
- Your arm is swollen.

What else should I watch out for?

Call your **CLSC nurse** or the **CHUM Patient Health Line** at **514 890-8086** immediately if:

- Your bandage is unstuck, wet, or dirty.
- You have the following symptoms of infection: fever or redness, warmth, swelling, or fluid leaking from where the catheter enters your arm.
- Your catheter has come out or seems to be out of place.



Where should I store the NaCl syringes?

Store them in a safe place, at room temperature. Before storing them, clean the place where you want to put them.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Call your **CLSC nurse** or the **CHUM Patient Health Line** at **514 890-8086**.



CHUM PATIENT HEALTH LINE

514 890-8086

24 hours/day, 7 days/week

You're a CHUM patient? You have questions about your health status? A nurse can help you.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Other CHUM health fact sheets are available. Ask your care team which fact sheets can help you.



You can also read them online.
chumontreal.qc.ca/fiches-sante

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