Removal of Your Central Venous Catheter (CVC)

Here is what to expect when your central venous catheter (CVC) is removed. Your catheter may be taken out in a hospital procedure room or in an outpatient clinic.

- The area around your CVC catheter may be numbed with medicine before it is removed. You may feel some pressure when the catheter is pulled out.

- Sutures (stitches) or steri-strips (small tapes) may be used to close the area where the catheter was removed. A dressing (bandage) will be put over the area.

Care After the CVC is Removed

- Keep the dressing clean and dry.
- The dressing can be removed after 24 hours.
- **Do not** remove the steri-strips (small tapes). They will fall off on their own in about 10 to 14 days.
- Keep the incision area (where catheter was removed) clean, dry and open to the air until it heals. The area should heal in 10 to 14 days.
- **To prevent infection, the area where the catheter was removed, should not be put under water.** **Do not** swim in a pool or lake and **do not** use a hot tub or bathtub for 2 weeks, or as directed by your doctor.
- Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns about your catheter removal and care.
Possible Problems After CVC Removal:

Here are signs you need to watch for at the area where the catheter was removed.

Call your doctor if you have any of the following:

- **Signs of Bleeding**
  - Bleeding at the incision area
  - Oozing blood
  - Swelling under the skin
  - Bruising around the incision area

If you have bleeding, apply firm pressure on the incision area, sit upright and remain still. To help apply firm pressure, roll up a dry washcloth and place it over the area.

- **Signs of Infection**
  - Chills or fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher
  - Redness, tenderness, and swelling around the incision area
  - Foul smelling drainage or pus from the incision area