

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.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

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