

# Going Home with Your Chest Port Accessed: Care Instructions

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A port is a device that is placed under your skin, most often in your chest or arm. When accessed with a needle, it allows blood to be drawn or medicine to be given into a vein. There may be times when your port needle is left in place when you leave the infusion area. For example, you may have a continuous infusion pump connected to the port to give medicine in your vein while at home, or you may be coming back to the infusion center the next day for a visit.

In order to prevent infection and protect the needle you may need to limit some of your activities while you have the needle in place.

## **How can I care for my port at home?**

- Take a sponge bath or shower instead of a bath. Cover the site with plastic wrap and secure it with tape if you take a shower.
- Do not go swimming or immerse your port under water when your port needle is in place.
- Keep the dressing over your port needle clean and dry. If you notice the dressing is pulling away from your skin, reinforce it with medical tape until you are seen by your care provider.
- Talk to your doctor about what activities you can do. You will not be able to play sports or exercise while the needle is in place.

## **When should I call for help?**

**Call your doctor right away or get medical care if you have signs of infection such as:**

- Increased pain, swelling, warmth, or redness around the port.
- Red streaks leading from the area around the port.
- Pus draining from the area around the port.

- A fever of 100.5 Fahrenheit or higher.
- You have pain or swelling in your neck or arm.

**Call Home Med at (734) 975-3006 if you have a continuous infusion and have these problems:**

- You have liquid leaking from around the line.
- There are cracks or leaks or breaks in the tube. Clamp or tie off the tube if it breaks.

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