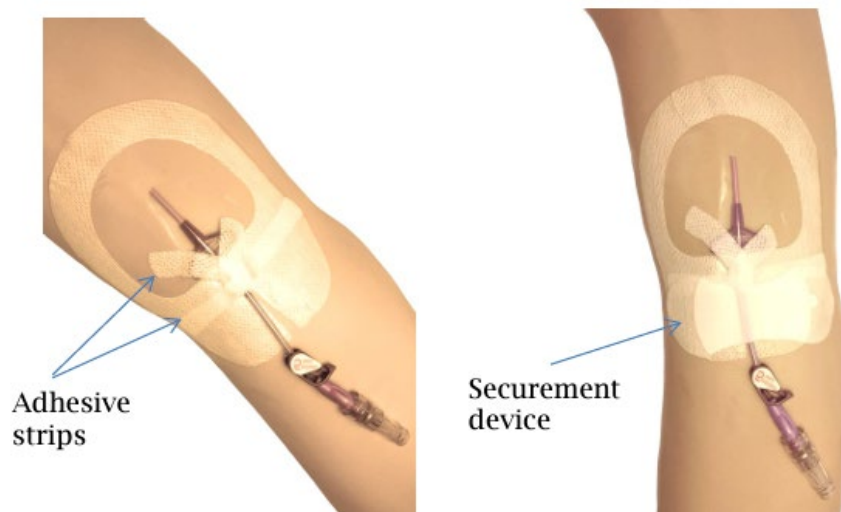# Important Information About Your Central Line Catheter

You are going home with a **central line catheter** (a thin, flexible tube inserted into your vein) that requires daily monitoring (checking) and specific care. When you have a central line, you are at increased risk for infection. Central lines can also **clot** (get plugged up). This can cause issues with giving you medication through your central line, such as leaking or blocking medication or **flush solution** (fluid to clean the line) from going through the catheter.

Care instructions for your central line catheter to help you prevent infection and other issues are below.

## Dressing care

Make sure that your dressing stays clean, dry, and stuck securely to your skin with no rolled edges. This helps prevent infection.



Adhesive strips

Securement device

## Injection cap care

Keeping the injection cap attached to the central line (lumen) and clean is necessary to prevent infection and keep your line from clotting. If the injection cap(s) on your central line falls off at any time, **make sure your central line is clamped. Do not re-use that injection cap.** Follow these instructions to safely put on a new cap:

1. Wipe down an area and gather the supplies you will need (an alcohol pad and a new injection cap).
2. Wash your hands with soap and water for 15 seconds or use hand sanitizer.
3. Open the alcohol pad wrapper and the new injection cap packaging, but keep the items in their packaging until you're ready to use them.
4. Clean the end of the line (lumen) that attaches to the cap with an alcohol pad. You will do this by wrapping the pad around the end and using a twisting motion. Clean for 15 seconds, then wait 15 seconds for it to dry.
5. Place a new cap on the end of the lumen.
6. Call your provider's office or your home care company and let them know that your injection cap fell off.

## Line care at your appointments

It is important to go to all your appointments, including any appointment for your line care. You will have a line care appointment about every week (you can check the date of when line care was last performed during your hospital stay in your After Visit Summary). Please call your provider's office or home care company if you have any questions, including questions about line care or if your appointment is cancelled.

- If you are at your provider appointment, they may help you do your line care if it is time for it.
- If your provider appointment is cancelled, you still need to be seen for line care. If your line care appointment has not been scheduled, call the Michigan Infusion Scheduling Team (MIST) at (734) 232-2655 to have your line care appointment scheduled.

## Contact information for line care issues

Call your provider's office or home care company if you experience any of the following issues:

- The catheter falls out all the way or part of the way (**call immediately**)
- There are breaks, cracks, or leaks in the catheter (**call immediately**)
- The dressing is wet, loose, or dirty
- You have any concerns about your central line catheter