

About central venous access devices

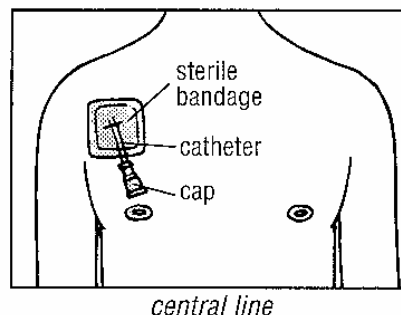
A central venous access device is a soft hollow tube (catheter) that is put in a large vein near your heart. An access device is often used if:

- the veins in your arm are small
- you must have an IV often
- you must have an IV for a long period of time
- the medicine needs to be given into a larger vein than those in your arm

By using an access device, you can get medicines or fluids or have blood taken without having a needle stick in your vein each time.

There are different types of access devices. Which one you get depends on your needs. Most of the time, the catheter can stay in for as long as it is needed.

access devices



Tunneled access device

A tunneled access device is a type of central venous (large vein) access device. By using it, you can get medicines or fluids or have blood taken without having a needle stick in your vein each time.

It is used when:

- the veins in your arm are small
- you must have an IV often
- you must have an IV for a long period of time
- your medicine needs to be given into a larger vein than those in your arm

A tiny hollow tube (catheter) is put in a large vein near your heart through a small incision in your chest. One end stays outside your body. A dressing covers the incision. The medicine or fluid is given through an injection cap or valve at the end of the catheter. The end of the catheter is called the hub. When the catheter is not in use, the clamp is secured to the skin with tape. If there is a clamp, it should be closed.

The catheter will need special care to keep the site clean, avoid infection and make sure it does not get blocked. The nurse will show you how to care for the catheter and site.

