

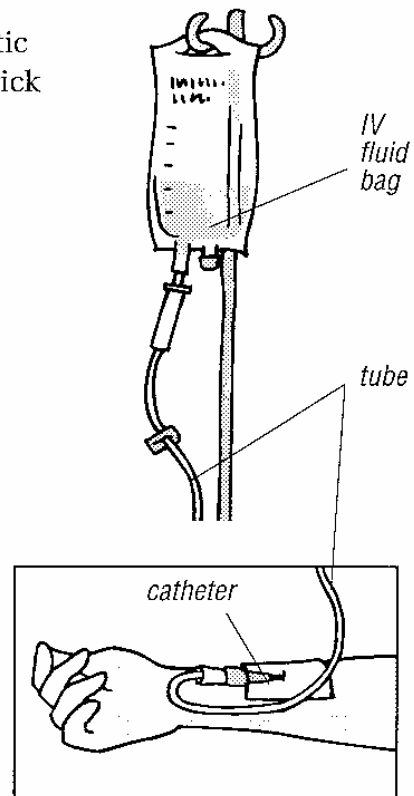
IV catheter in the hand or arm

Medicines, blood or other fluids are often given through a vein (intravenous or IV) in the hand or arm. For this type of IV, the nurse uses a needle to place a small plastic tube (catheter) into a vein. A pinch or prick will be felt when the needle is put in.

The catheter is attached to a larger plastic tube. This tube leads to a plastic bag that holds the medicine or fluid to be given.

The short IV catheter is used for:

- giving short-term IV medicines, blood or fluids (when these are usually needed from less than an hour to several days)
- emergencies
- X-ray tests



Continued on next page.

Your nurse will tell you about caring for the IV site. To avoid infection, follow these steps:

1. Before touching anything near the site, always wash your hands well. (Ask the nurse for information on how to do this▲.)
2. Keep the IV site very clean. Keep dressing over it to protect it from germs.
3. Do not let the IV site get wet. If it should get wet, change the dressing. If you can't change it, call the nurse for instructions.



To be sure you have the right medicine, **always check** the label on the IV bag. Check the **medicine for change in color, expiration date, patient name and time to be given.**

4. If at any time there is pain, redness or swelling at the IV site, call the nurse.
5. The catheter is most often changed or replaced every 3 days, but it could be longer. If there is a problem with the catheter, it may need to be changed sooner.

Do not bend, pull or tug on the catheter or IV tubing. This is to avoid damaging it or pulling it out.

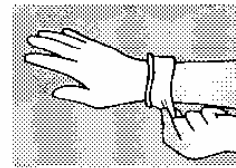
Removing an IV in the hand or arm

If you notice any signs of infection around the IV site, the IV may need to be removed. If the doctor or nurse asks you to remove an IV in the hand or arm, follow these steps:

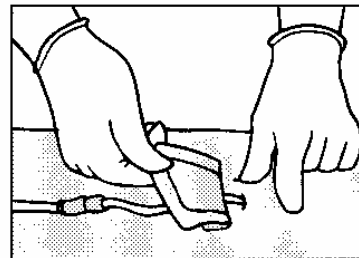
1. Wash hands. Use aseptic technique.
(Ask the nurse for information on how to do this.)



2. Put on exam gloves. (Wear sterile gloves if the nurse tells you to.)

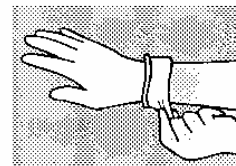


3. Remove dressing and catheter. Check the catheter length to make sure it was all removed. Put these in a plastic bag, and throw away.



4. Put a sterile dressing or Band-Aid® over the site.

5. Take off gloves. Put them in a plastic bag, and throw away.



6. Wash and dry your hands well.

7. Put a warm compress on the site, and rest the hand or arm on a pillow.



CAUTION:

You should not try to remove a central venous access device in the arm (PICC). If this is the type of IV the patient has, and there are signs of infection, call the doctor or nurse right away.