



Urgent care

# Cannula care for patients

## What is an intravenous cannula?

An intravenous cannula is a fine plastic tube inserted into a vein enabling medication to be given and can be in place for up to 3 days. You can keep a cannula in for longer if deemed necessary, as long as it is regularly reviewed.

## Care of an intravenous cannula

A cannula is secured with a dressing and then bandaged to provide further protection. Always keep the cannula well covered and protected when bathing or washing, ensuring the bandage remains clean and dry. The cannula should not be pulled or removed.

## What to do if there is a problem with the cannula

If the cannula comes out, there is no need to worry. There may be bleeding from the site:

- do not attempt to reinsert the cannula.
- apply firm pressure over the site using a clean cloth or kitchen towel, elevating the arm.
- if you are on blood thinning medication (Warfarin, Aspirin or antiplatelet medication) it may take longer for the bleeding to stop and you may have to apply pressure longer for the bleeding to stop or apply a small waterproof plaster to the site.
- put the cannula in a plastic bag then dispose of it in your own home rubbish after leaving it for a period of 72 hours

If the bleeding does not stop please contact one of the following services:

- out-of-hours GP Service: 111
- in severe cases please call 999
- District nurse
- Hospital at home team

## Concerns and complaints

We aim to provide you with a high quality service at all times. However, if you have any concerns, complaints or comments about your experience of our service then please tell a member of the team or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on freephone 0800 328 7971.

## Cannula care

If you would like to have information translated into a different language, please contact the Equality and Diversity Team at:

[EqualityandInclusion@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:EqualityandInclusion@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

**Arabic** يُرجى الاتصال بنا إذا كنتم ترغبون في الحصول على المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بتسيق مختلف.

আপনি এই তথ্য অন্য ভাষায় বা আলাদা আকারে **Bengali**

পেতে চাইলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

**Urdu** اگر آپ یہ معلومات دیگر زبان یا مختلف فارمیٹ میں چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

**Chinese** 若要以其他語言或格式提供這些資訊，請與我們聯繫

**Polish** Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, skontaktuj się z nami.

**Portuguese** Queira contactar-nos se pretender as informações noutra idioma ou num formato diferente.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Warneford Hospital  
Warneford Lane  
Headington  
Oxford  
OX3 7JX

Switchboard 01865 901 000

Email [enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

Website [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

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