Midline Catheter

Your child has a midline catheter inserted to provide _____________________.

The catheter is a size _______ French midline catheter. The catheter length is _______ cm. The part of the catheter you can see is about _______ cm long.

Care of the Midline Catheter:

- The midline catheter can irritate the vein. To reduce discomfort, apply warm, moist packs above the insertion site. Leave the warm pack on for 20 minutes, four times a day for two days (48 hours). A warm pack can be made using a warm, wet washcloth placed in a plastic bag. Puncture holes in the bag to allow some moisture to come through. This will dilate the vein so the catheter does not irritate the vein so easily. Do not use a microwave to warm the washcloth.

- A specially trained nurse will change the dressing as needed, and if the dressing becomes loose, soiled, or wet.

- If your child goes home with a midline catheter, a home care nurse will instruct you on how to give medications through the midline catheter. You will also learn how to flush the midline catheter before and after a medication is given.

Flushing the Catheter:

1. Gather supplies: 1-2 alcohol wipes, pre-filled normal saline and pre-filled heparin (______ units/ml) syringes supplied by your home care provider.

2. Wash hands for 15 seconds with soap and water.

3. Using a twisting, scrubbing motion for 5 seconds, clean the adapter (the cap on the end of the catheter) with at least 1 alcohol wipe. Once the adapter has been cleaned, do not allow it to touch anything.

4. Attach the normal saline syringe to the adapter, and flush the catheter with _______ ml of normal saline. Remove the normal saline syringe from the adapter. Then, attach the heparin syringe to the adapter. Flush with _______ ml of heparin. After removing heparin syringe, always remember to clamp the catheter.

5. Always flush with _______ ml of normal saline before and after giving medication, and between medications when your child is receiving more than one medication.

6. Always flush with the heparin solution last.
Safety Precautions:

- No contact sports or rough play (like football, soccer, basketball, or wrestling)
- No swimming or hot tubs
- Sponge baths are preferable. However, if your child needs to bathe, cover the arm with a plastic bag. Make sure the midline catheter and dressing are covered. Secure the plastic bag with tape. Do not allow the dressing to get wet. If the dressing does get wet, call your home care agency to come change the dressing.

Special Instructions:

- If the catheter breaks, immediately pinch it off by folding the catheter on itself and wrap the area with gauze. Call your home care agency.
- If the catheter is accidentally pulled out, place gauze on the site and apply pressure until the bleeding has stopped. If the catheter does not appear intact or to be the original length recorded above, call 911 immediately. Part of the catheter may have broken off.
- If the catheter is accidentally pulled out, save the catheter for your home care agency to examine. Cover the site with a Band-Aid® after the bleeding has stopped. If necessary, apply gentle pressure to the insertion site to stop the bleeding.

Call your home care agency at _________________ if:

- The insertion site or upper arm becomes red, swollen, or sore.
- Your child has a fever of 101° F (38.3° C) or greater.
- You are unable to flush the catheter. Never force anything through the catheter.
- The dressing becomes wet or loose. The dressing will need to be changed.
- You have questions or concerns regarding your child’s catheter.

If you have any other questions or concerns, you can call (816) 234-3000, and ask for the Vascular Access nurse to be paged.