

Further information and help

If you have any concerns about your cannula or for more information please contact your local hospital:

Western Isles Hospital
Macaulay Road
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis HS1 2AF
Tel. 01851 704704

Uist & Barra Hospital
Balivanich
Benbecula HS7 5LA
Tel. 01870 603603

St. Brendan's Hospital
Castlebay
Barra HS9 5XD
Tel. 01871 810465

Alternatively you can contact:

- Your medical practice
- Your community pharmacy
- NHS24 Tel: 111
Web: www.nhs24.scot

Notes

We are listening - how did we do?

We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website feedback section at:
www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk or share your story at:
www.careopinion.org.uk or 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 708069 or 07814 071868 Monday-Friday between 9am-5.30pm.

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Disclaimer

The content of this leaflet is intended to augment, not replace, information provided by your clinician. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Reading this information does not create or replace a doctor-patient relationship or consultation. If required, please contact your doctor or other health care provider to assist you interpret any of this information, or in applying the information to your individual needs.

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NHS Western Isles

Information for patients with a Cannula insitu



Patient information leaflet

What is a Cannula?

A cannula is a small plastic tube inserted into the vein in your arm or at the back of your hand in order to deliver your intravenous medicine.

Your cannula is fixed with a transparent occluded dressing, this will help to keep your cannula firmly in place and allow the site to be clearly seen.

Although the dressing is waterproof, it is best to avoid getting it wet whilst washing.

You are encouraged to report any symptoms such as pain, swelling, redness from the point of entry and discharges as these may mean that the site is infected or that the cannula is not sitting in the vein.

How can I help look after my cannula?

- Do not touch your cannula.
- Take care not to bump or pull your cannula.
- Keep the dressing clean and dry.
- Inform your nurse if the cap on your cannula is open.

What should I do if my cannula is accidentally dislodged?

If your cannula is accidentally dislodged there will be some bleeding from the site.

Please follow these instructions

- Please do not panic and do not attempt to reinsert the cannula.
- Apply finger pressure over the site with sterile gauze (which your nurse will give you when you are discharged) for five minutes.
- Apply a small waterproof plaster or band aid to the site.
- Keep the cannula in a plastic bag and bring it with you on your next visit to the hospital for proper disposal.



How long will my Cannula be inserted for?

Your cannula will be removed after your treatment ends.

It may be necessary to replace your cannula if it is not working properly.

It should be replaced routinely every 72 hours.

In exceptional circumstances it may stay in place for longer (this would be explained to you by the person in charge of your care).

Important

You should feel confident to ask any questions you may have and to challenge any healthcare worker who does not clean their hands before touching your cannula.