

Why will my child get an Intravenous Cannula (IV)?

Your child is being discharged home from hospital with an intravenous cannula (IV/luer) in place. The cannula is a short piece of flexible plastic tubing like a fine straw (it is not a needle).

How does the IV work?

On return to the hospital the IV cannula/luer will be checked by your nurse.

If the IV cannula/luer is needed and is working properly, medication may be given through the line.

However, if the IV cannula is no longer needed or if it is not working properly it will be removed.

Before you go home from hospital, your nurse will make sure that the IV is securely taped and covered with a clear plastic protective dressing and a bandage.

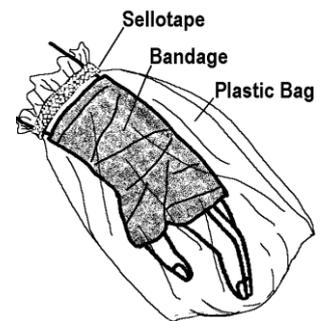
What is the home care needed for the IV?

Keep the bandage and IV site clean and dry at all times.

Please make sure that the tape and bandage doesn't come off. Regularly check that the bandage is secure and that there is no leakage (check at least every four hours during the day). Before discharge, your nurse will give you some sterile gauze and a plaster.

When bathing your child, cover their arm with a plastic bag and seal with tape above the top of the bandage to ensure that the IV site remains dry.

Do not attempt to put anything into the cannula yourself.



IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED IF:

- **the cannula accidentally comes out:** Apply pressure over the site with a gauze swab until the bleeding stops (should stop quickly). Cover with a plaster and telephone the CAAU.
- **the tubing becomes disconnected:** Reconnect it immediately and telephone the CAAU.
- **pain, redness or swelling occurs:** If any of these symptoms occur around the IV site, telephone the CAAU.

When do I bring my child back to complete their treatment?

You will need to bring your child back to the hospital for review with the possibility of further treatment.

Appointment Date/Time:

Place:

If you have any concerns at any time please contact:
Children's Acute Assessment Unit (CAAU) : ph (03) 364 0428

