Home Intravenous Therapy Service (HITS)

Troubleshooting guide

Information for patients

Contact numbers

District nurses, through your GP practice.

HITS team, Home Intravenous Therapy Service
Phone: 07795520985
(Mon-Fri 9am-7pm; Sat and Sun 9am-5pm)

Evening Service and Out of Hours District Nurses
Phone: 01625 430906
Seven days a week, 5pm-8am

www.eastcheshire.nhs.uk

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Introduction
This leaflet explains about problems you might have when having your home intravenous therapy.

Inflammation of the upper arm
If you have a cannula in – please contact the nurse as soon as possible for a review.

If you have this symptom and you have a midline/ PICC/ Hickmann line that has been put in during the past week, it is possible you have mechanical phlebitis. Mechanical phlebitis is possible anytime, but most likely in the first week.

What if someone is pricked by a needle?
Encourage the area to bleed by squeezing it and running it under cold water for at least 5 minutes. Apply a plaster.

Leakage from connectors
Wrap a sani-cloth cleaning wipe around the connector. Try to tighten the connection using this wipe. Avoid touching the connection with your hands. Contact a nurse to review.

Cracks in the line or hub
Wrap clean gauze around the crack and secure with tape, to prevent infection entering. Contact the nurse for a review urgently.

Wet or loose dressing
Do not attempt to remove the waterproof dressing – it may pull the IV line out. Contact a nurse for a review.

Pain or swelling in the arm or neck or shortness of breath.
Contact a nurse immediately. These symptoms indicate the line has moved and may need to be repositioned. The line should not be used until checked by a doctor.

If the symptoms get worse or the patient starts to struggle with their breathing call an emergency ambulance on 999.
Reactions to medications

Reactions to medication are rare. All nurses giving IV medications have had special training on dealing with this and carry emergency medicine to help in life threatening cases.

Most commonly they are related to the first few doses given. Reactions are classed into 3 main groups: mild, moderate and severe.

- **Mild reactions**
  These symptoms may include headaches, chills, fevers, nausea, vomiting, joint or back pain and light headedness/dizziness.

- **Moderate reactions**
  These symptoms include chest pain, wheezing, itching or nettle rash. Or other mild symptoms as above but rapidly getting worse or reoccurring.

- **Severe reactions**
  These symptoms may include tightness of the throat, severe headache or shaking, severe dizziness or fainting severe breathlessness or wheezing, collapse, sensation of pressure on chest, or other moderate symptoms persisting or getting rapidly worse.

**Pain, inflammation, redness or heat around the entry site and/or chills, sweats, raised temperature or feeling generally unwell.**

Contact the nurse immediately as these can be signs of infection.

**If your line seems longer than normal.**

This may mean the line has moved. It requires examination and if the line is a PICC or Hickman line it may require an x-ray to check the position. Contact the HITS nurse or district nurse for advice.
If your line comes out completely

If the line comes out completely:
- Apply pressure over the entry site into your skin for 5 minutes using a clean swab.
- Elevate your arm.
- When the bleeding has stopped, apply a plaster.
- **Contact the HITS team** as you may need a new line in before your next treatment.
- Make sure you put the line in the bin safely or in the yellow sharps bin the nurse uses, for the needles.

Additional Information

Your General Practitioner (GP) will be aware that you are at home having your IV therapy. If you have been sent home from hospital then all the medication will be given to you before you go home. All your other medications will be dealt with by your GP.

Contact numbers

**HITS Team**, Home Intravenous Therapy Service
Phone: **07795 520 985**
(Mon-Fri 9am-7pm; Sat and Sun 9am-5pm)

**District nurses**, through your GP practice.

**Evening Service and Out of Hours District Nurses**
Phone: **01625 430 906**
Seven days a week, 5pm-8am.

References


Comments, compliments or complaints

We welcome any suggestions you have about the quality of our care and our services.

Contact us:
Freephone: 0800 1613997
Phone: 01625 661449
Textphone: 01625 663723
Customer Care, Reception,
Macclesfield District General Hospital, Victoria Road,
SK10 3BL

For large print, audio, Braille version or translation contact Communications and Engagement on 0800 195 494.

Admission information
The trust accepts no responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, personal property of any kind, in whatever way the loss or damage may occur, unless deposited for safe custody.

Please leave valuables at home. If you need to bring personal items that are expensive, for example micro hearing aids, please be aware that you do so at your own risk.

East Cheshire NHS Trust is committed to ensuring that patients and staff will always be treated with dignity and respect. There will be no age, disability, gender, race, sexual orientation or religious discrimination.

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(Textphone 0845 606 46 47)
www.nhs.uk

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