

Dialysis chest line: what to do if you suspect an infection or other problem

Important things to know:

- Cover exit sites with a dry sterile dressing at all times. The nurses in the Dialysis Unit will check and change the dressing every time you attend for dialysis. Never try to do this yourself.
- Never shower when you have a chest line. You can have a low bath but ~~try to~~ keep the area dry. Never go swimming.
- If you have difficulty in washing your hair, try a 'shampoo shower cap'. You can buy these online or from pharmacies. They are easy to use and will let you wash your hair without a shower.
- The line is for dialysis only. Do not let anyone take a blood sample from it. Do not let anyone give you drugs through it.
- Be careful not to bump or knock the line as this can damage it. Do not use any sharp objects i.e. scissors, around the line. Do not pinch, poke, bend or pull the line.
- If either of the lines ever falls out, use sterile dressing or gauze and apply pressure at the site. Contact the number listed below as soon as possible if this happens.
- If you see heavy bleeding through the dressing and around the exit site of either of the lines, press on top of the existing dressing and contact the number listed below.
- If the line becomes sore, painful or oozes any fluid, let the Haemodialysis Unit know, (day or night), especially if you feel unwell and have a temperature. You could have a serious infection in your blood stream, and need antibiotics to treat it. We may need to take the line out.
- Phone your Dialysis Unit immediately if one of the lines falls out or one of the caps ever comes off the end.

Benyon Dialysis Unit:	0118 322 8360
Bracknell Dialysis Unit:	01344 662961
Enborne Dialysis Unit:	01635 273640
Huntley & Palmer Dialysis Unit:	0118 322 8519
Windsor Dialysis Unit:	01753 866008
Home HD patients call:	0118 322 7918 /

Out of hours contact: Victoria Ward: 0118 322 7476.

Do not leave a message of the unit answerphone.