

Family Education Sheet

Changing the Needleless Connector: Central Venous Catheter (CVC or Central Line) Care



Boston Children's Hospital

View more health education materials at
www.bostonchildrens.org/familyeducation

You will need to change the needleless connector every 4 days for tunneled central venous catheters (also known as CVCs or central lines) like a Broviac® or implanted port. Change the needleless connector once a week for peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) lines.

Watch a video about how to change the needleless connector at www.childrenshospital.org/centrallinecare.



SCAN ME

Step 1: Gather supplies

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ 10 mL normal saline syringe | ___ Medical mask |
| ___ Needleless connector | ___ Clean gloves |
| ___ 2 sterile gauze pads | ___ 2 alcohol wipes |
| ___ Hand sanitizer | ___ Alcohol impregnated cap |
| | ___ Heparin (if needed) |

Step 2: Get ready to change the needleless connector

Ask a second person if they can help you to change the needleless connector if possible. Then:

- ☐ Set up a clean workspace.
- ☐ Clean your hands by washing them thoroughly with soap and water if they look dirty or by using hand sanitizer if they look clean.
- ☐ Put masks on yourself and anyone else in the room if they're within 6 feet of your child.
- ☐ Clean your hands again.

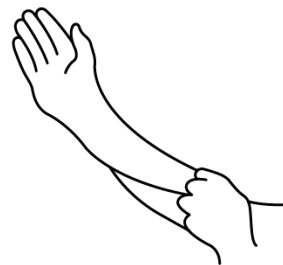
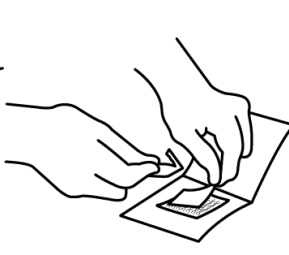
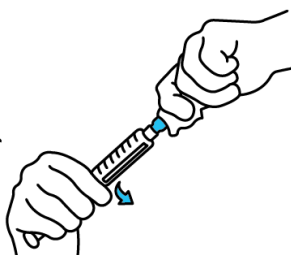
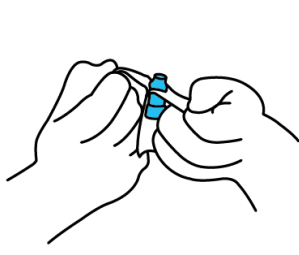
Step 3: Change the needleless connector

Important tips

- 1) Make sure that the central line is clamped before you start.
- 2) Always wash your hands before **and** after changing the needleless connector.
- 3) Throw away the new needleless connector and get a new one if you think you may have touched the end of it.

Call your child's home care nurse, doctor or nurse if:

- The central line hub site is cracked or damaged
- You cannot remove the old central line needleless connector
- You have any questions or concerns



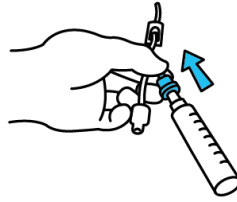
- 1 Make sure that the central line is clamped** before starting. Open the needleless connector package next. **Do not touch** the needleless connector. Keep the needleless connector inside the package.
- 2 Screw the normal saline syringe** onto the new needleless connector. Keep it inside the package. **Flush** with normal saline.
- 3 Open the gauze and alcohol packets.** Leave the gauze pad inside the opened packet. **Put the alcohol pad on top of the gauze pad.** Only touch **1 corner** of the alcohol pad.
- 4 Put on clean gloves.**
- 5 Pick up the line.** Then pick up the gauze and alcohol pad together.



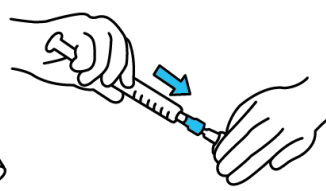
6 Use the alcohol pad and gauze to scrub where the end of the line meets the needleless connector before you take it out. Use a windshield-wiper motion. Do this for 15 seconds.



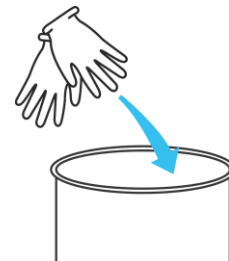
7 Use the same gauze and alcohol pad to take out the old needleless connector and throw it away. **Also throw away the alcohol pad and gauze.** Then **scrub the end of the line** with a **new** gauze and alcohol pad for 15 seconds and let it air dry.



8 Keep holding the line and pick up the normal saline syringe with the new needleless connector attached. Use your other hand to take off the plastic tip.



9 Screw the new needleless connector onto the line. Flush with normal saline as directed. Repeat the same steps above for each lumen. Scrub the hub with alcohol for 15 seconds. Flush with heparin as needed and put on the alcohol-impregnated cap.



10 Throw away your gloves.