



Tan Tock Seng
HOSPITAL



National Centre for
Infectious Diseases

Department of
NURSING

Intravenous (IV) Cannula

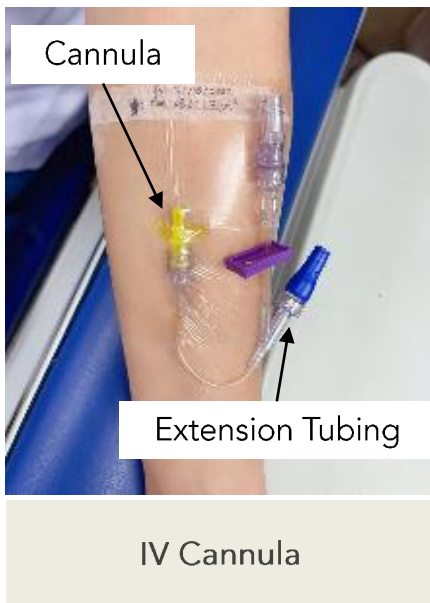


What Is an Intravenous (IV) Cannula?

An **IV cannula** is a small, short piece of plastic tube. It is inserted into a vein, usually in the hand or arm by a trained healthcare professional, to receive intravenous medications or fluids.

An **extension tubing** will be attached to the cannula along with a transparent **dressing** to secure the cannula.

The cannula will be covered with a bandage for extra protection. The bandage dressing will be changed at each clinic visit.



How Often Do I Need to Change My Cannula?

- Every 72 hours
- When the cannula is blocked or has slipped out of position (dislodged)
- When the site around the cannula becomes red/ painful/ swollen/ hard/ puffy/ hot

How Do I Care for My Cannula at Home?

Do:

- Wash your hands before touching your cannula site
- Keep your cannula dressing dry at all times
- Cover the cannula with a waterproof material (e.g. plastic bag) and seal the edges with tapes before showering
- Inform the nurse if the cannula has dislodged

Don't:

- Touch the cannula unnecessarily
- Perform heavy lifting with the arm inserted with IV cannula
- Remove the dressing
- Pull the cannula out
- Inject anything into the cannula
- Submerge the cannula site in water, such as bathtub or swimming pool

What Should I Do If I Face Problems with My Cannula?

If the cannula is dislodged,

- Do not panic and do not attempt to reinsert the cannula or reconnect the tubing
- Apply gentle pressure on the cannula site with a clean gauze to stop bleeding (if any)
- Keep the cannula and bring it to the clinic during your next visit
- Apply a plaster when the bleeding stops
- Notify OPAT clinic staff immediately

If bleeding is observed from the cannula site,

- Apply gentle pressure on the bleeding site with a clean gauze to stop the bleeding
- Notify OPAT clinic staff immediately and return to the clinic to change dressing at your earliest convenient time

If the cannula dressing became loose,

- Do not attempt to change the cannula dressing
- Reinforce the cannula dressing with clean tape
- Notify OPAT clinic staff immediately

How do I remove my IV cannula?

- Wash and dry your hands, and wear gloves afterwards
- Remove bandage and transparent dressing
- Gently apply a clean gauze on top of the insertion site
- Remove the cannula slowly
- Apply pressure at the removal site with the gauze until bleeding stops
- Apply plaster if you are not allergic to it

Notify the Nurse Immediately When:

- You have a fever with $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$
- There are swelling and pain experienced at the cannula site
- The area around the cannula becomes red/ painful/ swollen/ hard/ puffy/ hot
- The cannula or extension tubing has been dislodged
- There is bleeding at the IV cannula site

What Should I Look Out for After the Cannula Has Been Removed?

- A trained nurse or doctor will remove the cannula for you after you complete your treatment (or earlier if there are any problems).
- Continue to monitor the ex-cannula site for pain, redness or swelling within 48 hours after removal and notify OPAT clinic staff if the above happens.

Contact Nurses at Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Clinic:

OPAT Clinic Operating Hours	Contact Number
Operating Hours On Weekdays: 8.00am – 5.30pm On Sat, Sun and PH: 8.00am – 12.00pm	6357 8275
After Operating Hours	9722 6243 Or visit Emergency Department (if required)

Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Clinic
TTSH Medical Centre, Basement 2

Contact:
6357 8275 (OPAT Clinic)
6357 7000 (Central Hotline)

TTSH Health Library



Scan the QR Code with your smart phone
to access the information online or visit
<http://bit.ly/TTSHHealth-Library>.

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