

Department of
Nursing

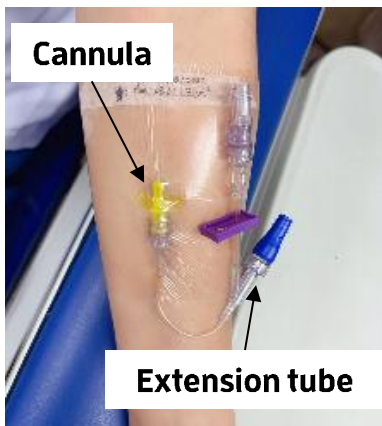
Intravenous (IV) Cannula



What is an Intravenous (IV) Cannula?

An **IV cannula** is a small, short plastic tube. A trained healthcare professional puts it into a vein, usually in your hand or arm. You receive medications or fluids through this tube.

An **extension tube** will be attached to the cannula. A clean dressing will cover it to keep the cannula in place. The cannula will be covered with a bandage for extra protection. We will change the bandage dressing at each clinic visit.



IV Cannula



Covered with bandage

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, or 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 waterproof material (like a plastic bag) and seal the edges with tape before showering
- Inform the nurse if the cannula has dislodged out

Don't:



- Touch the cannula unless you need to
- Do heavy lifting with the arm that has the IV cannula
- Remove the dressing
- Pull the cannula out
- Inject anything into the cannula
- Put the cannula site underwater, such as in a 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 try to put the cannula back in or reconnect the tubing
- Press gently on the cannula site with clean gauze to stop bleeding (if any)
- Keep the cannula and bring it to the clinic during your next visit
- Put on a plaster when the bleeding stops
- Call OPAT clinic staff right away

If bleeding is observed from the cannula site,

- Press gently on the bleeding site with clean gauze to stop the bleeding
- Call OPAT clinic staff right away and return to the clinic to change dressing as soon as you can

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
- Remove bandage and clear dressing
- Gently place clean gauze on top of where the insertion goes in
- Remove the cannula slowly
- Press on the removal site with the gauze until bleeding stops
- Put on a plaster if you are not allergic to it

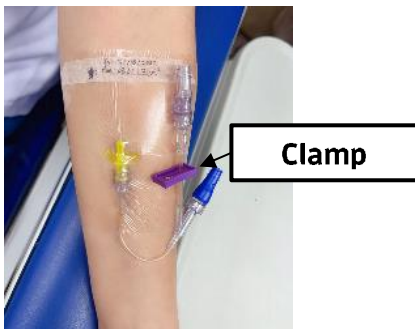
If the IV cannula is out of vessel, the medication may flow into tissue (extravasation), cause injury to tissue

Signs and symptoms of extravasation may include the following:

- Pain or redness over the IV site
- Change in feeling, like burning, stinging or tingling feeling over the affected area
- Leaking from around the cannula site
- Swelling at the cannulation site or along the vein
- Swelling or blistering
- Infusion slows in more slowly

What should I do?

- Stop infusion right away by clamping the tube
- Contact OPAT nurse right away
- The OPAT nurse may tell you to clamp IV cannula and return to the clinic during office hours right away. If this happens after office hours, the OPAT nurse may tell you to clamp the IV cannula and visit the Emergency department



Notify the Nurse Immediately When:

- You have a fever over 38⁰C
- You have swelling and pain at the cannula site
- The area around the cannula becomes red, painful, swollen, hard, puffy, or hot
- The cannula or extension tubing has slipped out
- 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).
- Keep checking the old cannula site for pain, redness or swelling within 48 hours after removal. Call OPAT clinic staff if the above of these happens.

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

Operating Hours	Phone Number
Weekdays 8.00am – 5.30pm Sat, Sun and Public Holiday: 8.00am – 12.30pm	6357 2320
After Operating Hours	9722 6243 Or Visit Emergency Department (if needed)

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

Contact:
6357 2320 (OPAT Clinic)
6357 7000 (General Enquiries)



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