

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

**This leaflet gives important advice for people with a dialysis chest line, as well as a list of useful contact numbers.**

## Important advice

- Cover exit sites with a dry sterile dressing always. 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.
- Use a 'shampoo shower cap' to wash your hair. 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 site becomes sore, painful or oozes any fluid, let the Haemodialysis Unit know, (day or night), especially if you feel unwell and have a temperature as you could have a serious infection in your bloodstream, 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.

**If you have a problem or concern please call your local unit on the numbers below or the Renal Vascular Access Nurse on 0118 322 8526.**

**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**

**If the above departments are closed, please contact: Victoria Ward: 0118 322 7476.**

To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

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