

Do:

- Keep IV cannula dressing dry & intact
- Tell a nurse if dressing becomes damp, loose or soiled
- Tell a nurse if IV cannula has slipped out
- Minimise movement of the IV cannula site
- Tell a nurse if there are signs of inflammation or infection

Do Not:

- Do not touch the IV cannula if your hands are dirty
- Do not remove the IV cannula by yourself
- Do not submerge the IV cannula into water

Contact:

6256 6011 (General Hotline)



Scan the QR Code with your smart phone to access the information online or visit <https://for.sg/ttsh-health-library>

Was this information helpful?
Please feel free to email us if you have any feedback regarding what you have just read at patienteducation@ttsh.com.sg



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PECC-NUR-ED-2024-1965-v1



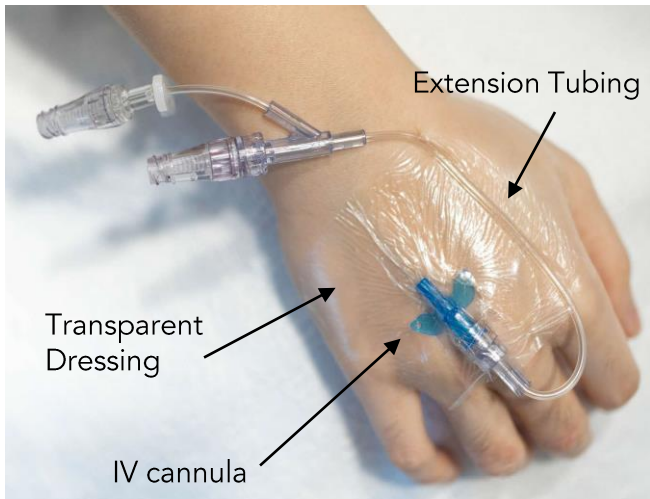
Department of
Nursing

Care of Intravenous (IV) Cannula During Your Hospital Stay



What is an IV cannula?

An **IV cannula** is a small plastic tube inserted into a vein, usually in the arm or hand, to give medications or fluids. It has an **extension tube** attached to it and is secured with a **transparent dressing**.



Who can insert IV cannula?

Trained healthcare personnel (Doctors & Nurses).

How long can the IV cannula be kept?

The IV cannula can be kept for up to 3 days.

It may need to be removed sooner if:

- Cannula is blocked or slipped out;
- When no longer on IV medications or fluids;
- Signs of inflammation or infection over cannula site.

Your nurse or doctor might also recommend earlier cannula change if there is a higher risk of developing an infection.

Look out for signs of inflammation & infection while cannula is in place:



- Redness
- Pain
- Swelling
- Warmth
- Pus/Discharges

Possible causes of cannula site inflammation & infection:

- Moving the cannula too much, especially if it is near a joint.
- Medications such as chemotherapies, antibiotics, electrolytes replacement, etc.
- The cannula was left in for too long.

After the IV cannula is removed:

The site will be covered with a plaster to prevent bleeding. The plaster could be removed if there is no bleeding.

Watch for signs of inflammation or infection over the previous cannula site. If you notice signs of inflammation or infection, tell the nurse immediately. Common follow-up care include:

- Applying a cold compress, ointment, or cream, and raising the arm or hand to reduce swelling.

If there is no improvement or the symptoms get worse, inform the nurse or doctor.