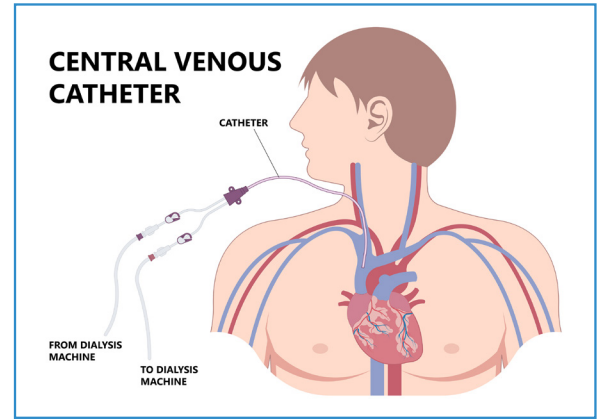


Living with Your Hemodialysis Central Venous Catheter (HD-CVC)

What is an HD-CVC?

You have a hemodialysis central venous catheter, or HD-CVC, that is being used for hemodialysis. An HD-CVC is a long, flexible tube that a physician has inserted into a vein in your neck, chest, or groin that goes to your heart.

The part of the tube that looks like the letter “y” stays outside of your body. One of the smaller tubes carries your blood to the dialysis machine to be cleaned. The other tube returns the cleaned blood from the dialysis machine back to your body.



Important Things to Remember About Your HD-CVC:

| DO | DON'T |
|--|--|
| <p>✓ Wash your hands for 20 seconds and make sure they are dry before and after touching the HD-CVC or the tubing.</p> | <p>✗ Pull, bend, poke, touch or pinch the HD-CVC or the tubes.</p> |
| <p>✓ Tell a nurse right away if you notice dry skin, a rash, or irritation around the dressing.</p> | <p>✗ Take off the dressing or take the caps off the ends of the tubes.</p> |
| <p>✓ Keep the HD-CVC dressing on, make sure it's clean, dry, and sticking to the skin.</p> | <p>✗ Use sharp objects (like scissors, knives, or razors) near the HD-CVC or tubing.</p> |
| <p>✓ Be careful not to pull the tube when putting your clothes on or taking them off.</p> | <p>✗ Let pets or small children touch the HD-CVC or tubing.</p> |
| <p>✓ Tuck each tube under clothing for safety, dignity, and protection of the tubes.</p> | <p>✗ Put anything into the tubes.</p> |

Questions? If you have any questions about your HD-CVC, ask your nurse.