

CHANGING YOUR PICC LINE INJECTION CAP

TRANSCRIPT

To prevent infection, change the injection cap of your peripherally inserted central catheter on a regular basis – usually every 7 days. The area you change your injection cap in should be germ-free, and anybody coming into contact with the site should wear a mask and wash their hands thoroughly.

To change your injection cap, use a syringe of saline solution to flush the new cap. This will thoroughly clean it. Do not remove the syringe yet.

Make sure your catheter is clamped. Unscrew the old injection cap and remove it.

Wipe the catheter hub with alcohol and let it air dry. Do not blow or fan the area to help it dry. You do not want to attract germs to this site. Be careful not to touch the end of the hub with your fingers.

Never touch the end that screws into the catheter. If you do, throw the cap away and repeat these steps with a new injection cap.

Screw on the new cap. Once the new cap is on, the catheter needs to be flushed with saline solution to thoroughly clean the tube.

Remember, your injection cap needs to be changed every 7 days, or as directed by your healthcare provider. Develop a routine to help you remember when it needs to be changed. You may want to mark the date of the last change on your calendar, set an alarm on your phone, or write it in a log book so you don't forget.