

Transcript

A central venous catheter for hemodialysis can be used for several weeks to months if it is kept clean, infection free and in good working order. To ensure it stays working safely, here are some things to keep in mind.

Do not get your catheter wet. Do not go swimming. A tub bath may be the best way to wash without getting your catheter wet. If you are told you can shower with your CVC, cover it with a plastic wrap when showering.

Do not touch your lumens or catheter. Never push or reposition the catheter. If you think it has moved or is coming out, call 911. Wear loose clothing that does not rub or pull on your line.

If you notice a leak in your catheter, call 911 immediately.

And let all of your healthcare providers, including your dentist, know you have a catheter before any appointments.

Every day, check for signs of infection. If you notice redness, warmth, or tenderness around your exit site, blood or drainage on your catheter dressing, a foul odor, or if you have a fever, contact your healthcare provider right away.

Call 911 immediately if you have: trouble breathing, a fast or irregular pulse, if you notice swelling in your head, neck, shoulder or arm, notice bleeding or a leak, feel chest pain, or think your catheter has come out. These can be signs of a serious complication. Get help right away.

As you live with your catheter, it will become routine. Have confidence knowing that you are doing all you can to ensure your care is safe and complication-free.