

Step-by-Step: Caring for your IV Catheter at Home

Caring for your IV catheter at home.

Always clean your hands thoroughly before and after contact with any part of your IV catheter or dressing.

Dry your hands with a clean paper towel. Use the paper towel to turn off the faucet.

Don't touch any part of the catheter or dressing unless you need to.

Don't use any sharp or pointy objects around the catheter.

Keep the catheter and dressing dry.

Don't lower your chest below your waist.

Avoid activities that might bump your hand or arm. Avoid activities and exercises that require major use of your arm. Don't lift anything heavier than 10 lbs.

Your provider may recommend warm compresses or cold packs to relieve moderate bruising or swelling.

Stay hydrated.

Call your healthcare provider if you vomit or have severe coughing that might cause your catheter to slip out of place.

Watch for signs of infection. Call your healthcare provider if you have a fever, increasing redness, or swelling around the IV catheter.