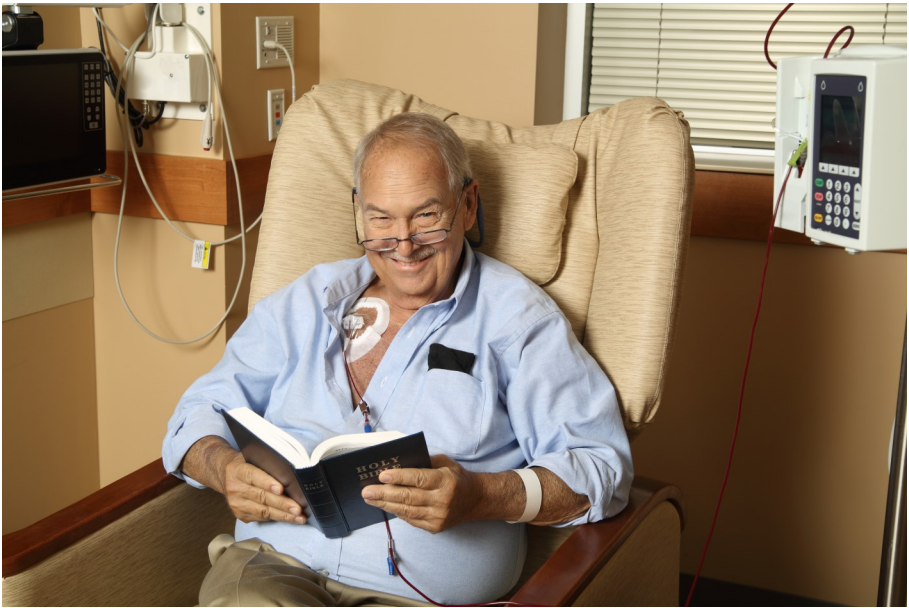


# Patient Guide



**For patients with an implantable venous  
access device  
(Port-a-Cath)**

## **Implantable venous access device (Port-a-Cath)**

The implantable port is a system composed of a casing with a reservoir. It is attached under the skin in the upper part of the chest by way of a surgical procedure. The casing is equipped with a thin, flexible tube that is inserted directly into the vein.

The system is completely implanted under the skin so that nothing shows on the outside. The implantable catheter can be used as soon as it has been inserted.

It enables medications to be directly administered into the veins (e.g., intravenous fluids, chemotherapy, antibiotics, intravenous feeding) and to take blood samples. This is done through a sterile procedure using a special needle with a blunt tip (Huber point needle).

The needle can be removed immediately after medication has been administered or left in place for up to 7 days. Once the needle has been removed, it takes 48 hours for the skin covering the catheter to heal before it can be immersed in water.

**Port-a-cath implanted on :**

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**Type of catheter :**

- Implantable chamber with valve
  - Implantable chamber without valve
  - Other :
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# First 48 hours after the placement of your Catheter

- It is normal for the skin around the catheter to be bluish (bruising).
- Limit activities with the arm on the same side as the catheter.
- Avoid arm movements above your head (e.g., brushing or washing your hair).
- Do not expose your dressing or wound to water (avoid baths).
- Take off the padded dressing in the morning, but do not remove the butterfly stitches directly on your skin.
- Do not apply cream or ointment.
- If the stitches bother you when wearing your clothes, place a small compress on the site where the catheter was placed.
- The stitches will be removed 7 to 14 days later by your CLSC nurse or at one of your upcoming appointments (except for dissolvable stitches). Butterfly stitches will fall off naturally after a few days.

## Signs and symptoms to watch for

**Any sign of irritation or infection:** redness, swelling, pain, heat at the site, chills/fever

**Signs or symptoms of catheter displacement:** swelling at the site, neck or ear pain on the side of the catheter, whooshing sound, heart palpitations

**IMPORTANT | In case of signs or symptoms, call this dedicated line immediately: 1-888-939-5050.**

# Guidelines for your daily activities

When the catheter is **not being used**:

- Keep the skin at the site clear by washing every day ;
- Showers and baths are only permitted 4 days after the catheter has been placed;
- Swimming is permitted 7 days after its placement ;
- Avoid applying cream or ointment on the skin at the site without your physician's approval ;
- Perform your usual activities unless otherwise indicated ;
- To avoid any blockage in the catheter between uses, it must be flushed about once every 4 weeks by a CLSC nurse ;
- You will receive an ID card with information about your catheter (always have it with you).

**Dedicated line : 1 888 939-5050**  
**24 hours a day ● 7 days a week**



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