

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

How to Prevent a Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infection or CLABSI

What is a central line?

Some children with medical problems need many IV (**intravenous**) treatments. To avoid all those needle sticks, the doctor may decide to put in a central line or central venous catheter (CVC). A central line is a tube that is placed into a large vein. Central lines may be used to give medicine, blood transfusions, fluids, nutrients, or draw blood samples.

What is a central line bloodstream infection?

Germs can get into the blood when central lines are in place. When this happens it is called a **central line associated blood stream infection** or **CLABSI**. Signs of this infection can be:

- a temperature above 101 F by mouth
- feeling cold
- feeling more tired than usual
- babies and young children may be more fussy than usual
- low blood pressure

When there are signs of a blood stream infection a sample of blood is sent to the lab to see what germs might be in it.

Can a central line bloodstream infection be treated?

Yes, a central line bloodstream infection can be treated with antibiotics. In some cases, the central line may need to be removed.

How can we prevent a central line bloodstream infection?

Many things can be done to prevent central line bloodstream infections.

Before the central line is put in:

- The child has a bath with CHG.
- The doctor or nurse chooses a vein that has the lowest risk of infection.
- The doctor or nurse cleans his or her hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Then the doctor or nurse puts on a mask, cap, sterile gown, and sterile gloves.
- A sterile sheet is put on the child.
- The doctor or nurse cleans the child's skin with a medicine that kills germs (an **antiseptic**).

After the central line is put in:

- A sterile dressing covers the place where the tube enters the skin.
- Nurses and doctors clean their hands when they come in and leave your child's room.
- Nurses and doctors clean their hands before they touch your child, the central line, or the IV tubing.
- Before using the central line, the nurse cleans the opening or end of the tube with a hub scrub (an antiseptic).
- Antiseptic caps are sometimes used to help protect the central line at places where tubes can be connected.
- The sterile dressing on the line is changed every 7 days or when it becomes loose or dirty.
 - You are asked to leave the room or put on a mask when the dressing is being changed.
 - The nurse cleans his or her hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
 - The nurse puts on a mask, gown, and sterile gloves.
- The child is cleaned with CHG wipes every day.
- Every day your nurse and doctor decides if your child still needs the central line. If it is not being used, it is taken out.

What can I do to help prevent central line bloodstream infections?

- Clean your hands before you come into your child's room, before you touch your child, and before you leave the room.

- Make sure CHG wipes are used on your child every day.
- After CHG wipes are used, wrap your child loosely in a clean blanket until the skin is dry.
- When the skin is dry, put clean washed clothes on your child.
- Do not let your child put IV tubing in his or her mouth.
- Keep your child's central line and IV tubing away from dirt and germs, such as diapers.
- Tell your nurse right away if your child puts the tubing in his or her mouth, or you see anything dirty on your child's dressing or IV tubing.
- Tell all family and friends to clean their hands when they come into your child's room, before they touch your child, and before they leave the room.
- Do not let family or friends who visit touch the central line or IV tubing.
- If your child's central line dressing becomes loose, dirty, or wet, tell your nurse right away. The dressing needs to be changed.
- Tell your nurse right away if the skin around your child's central line has signs of infection.
- Make sure hospital staff clean their hands before they come into your child's room, before they touch your child, and before they leave the room.



Clean your hands before you come into your child's room, before you touch your child, and before you leave the room.

Now that you've read this:

- Tell your nurse or doctor the signs of a central line bloodstream infection. (Check when done.)
- Tell your nurse or doctor what you can do to help prevent your child from getting a central line bloodstream infection. (Check when done.)



If you have any questions or concerns,
 call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-933-1400
866-933-6459
www.phoenixchildrens.org
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Facebook: [facebook.com/theemilycenter](https://www.facebook.com/theemilycenter)
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Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

Friday, January 16, 2015 • DRAFT to family review
#1695 • Written by Tess Wright, RN
• Illustrated by Dennis Swain and Irene Takamizu

How to Prevent a Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infection or CLABSI

Name of Health Care Provider: _____

Date returned: _____ db

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.

Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No

If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes

No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

The Emily Center
Health Education Specialist
Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016-7710

602-933-1395

Thank you for helping us!