

## PERIPHERAL IV CATHETER TROUBLESHOOTING

Your peripheral IV catheter will not interfere with your daily activities if proper care is taken. On occasion, a problem may occur. A list of some of these problems, the causes, and what you should do about them is provided below. Your nurse may provide additional instructions.

PROBLEM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	WHAT TO DO
<b>Irritation of vein</b> ( <i>Phlebitis</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redness at IV site</li> <li>• Red line following the course of the vein</li> <li>• Pain/feeling of warmth at the IV site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irritating medications</li> <li>• Irritation from the IV</li> <li>• Bacteria/infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call your nurse. She/he may give you telephone instructions or make arrangements to see you.</li> </ul>
<b>Fluid running into the tissue rather than the vein</b> ( <i>Infiltrate</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swelling while flushing the IV</li> <li>• Swelling while your medication is running</li> <li>• Coolness or blanching of your skin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dislodged IV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call your nurse. She/he may give you telephone instructions or make arrangements to see you.</li> </ul>
<b>Leaking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose injection cap</li> <li>• Dislodged IV</li> <li>• Damaged IV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop the infusion</li> <li>• Check injection cap and tighten if necessary</li> <li>• If the problem persists, call your nurse.</li> </ul>
<b>Resistance to catheter flushing</b>  <b>Medication will not run or runs slowly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roller clamp on tubing is not adjusted correctly</li> <li>• Bag is spiked incorrectly</li> <li>• Tubing is kinked</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check solution bag and spike connection.</li> <li>• Check height of bag, (if gravity infusion).</li> <li>• Check to be sure tubing is not clamped or kinked.</li> <li>• Try changing the position of your arm.</li> <li>• Stop the infusion and flush your catheter with saline (or sterile water if instructed) and attempt to restart the infusion.</li> <li>• If the problem persists, call your nurse.</li> </ul>
<b>IV falls out</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dressing not securing IV catheter correctly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply gauze to site.</li> <li>• Apply pressure.</li> <li>• Tape gauze in place.</li> <li>• Call your nurse to arrange for a new catheter.</li> </ul>

Have questions? Call Toll-Free **1-800-665-2850**

- » Your IV will always be started and/or changed by your nurse. Keep dressing clean and dry.
- » IV sites will be rotated or changed *every* 72 hours or according to your doctor's orders
- » Inspect your IV site for any red, swollen or tender-to-touch areas. If this occurs, **DO NOT** use the IV. Call your nurse immediately.
- » When bathing or showering, protect your IV by covering the site with a water proof covering.
- » If IV tape appears to be loosening, reinforce with tape around the edges.



#### IMPORTANT TIPS

**Always** keep pets and animals out of the room while connecting the infusions to your IV.

**Always** cover IV with plastic wrap when bathing – Sponge bathing is recommended.

## Have questions? Call Toll-Free 1-800-665-2850